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Reds captain Steven Gerrard and manager Brendan Rodgers stand top-right as the Liverpool FC squad prepare to board their plane at the city's John Lennon Airport ahead of the pre-season tour of the USA. The question is: can you name each and every one of the other 26 players in the picture?

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SELFIES IN CHICAGO

The captain goes on selfie duty with fans during a training session before Liverpool FC's fixture in the Guinness International Champions Cup against Olympiacos at Chicago's Soldier Field. Once again the reception afforded to the club by its huge North American fanbase was fabulous.

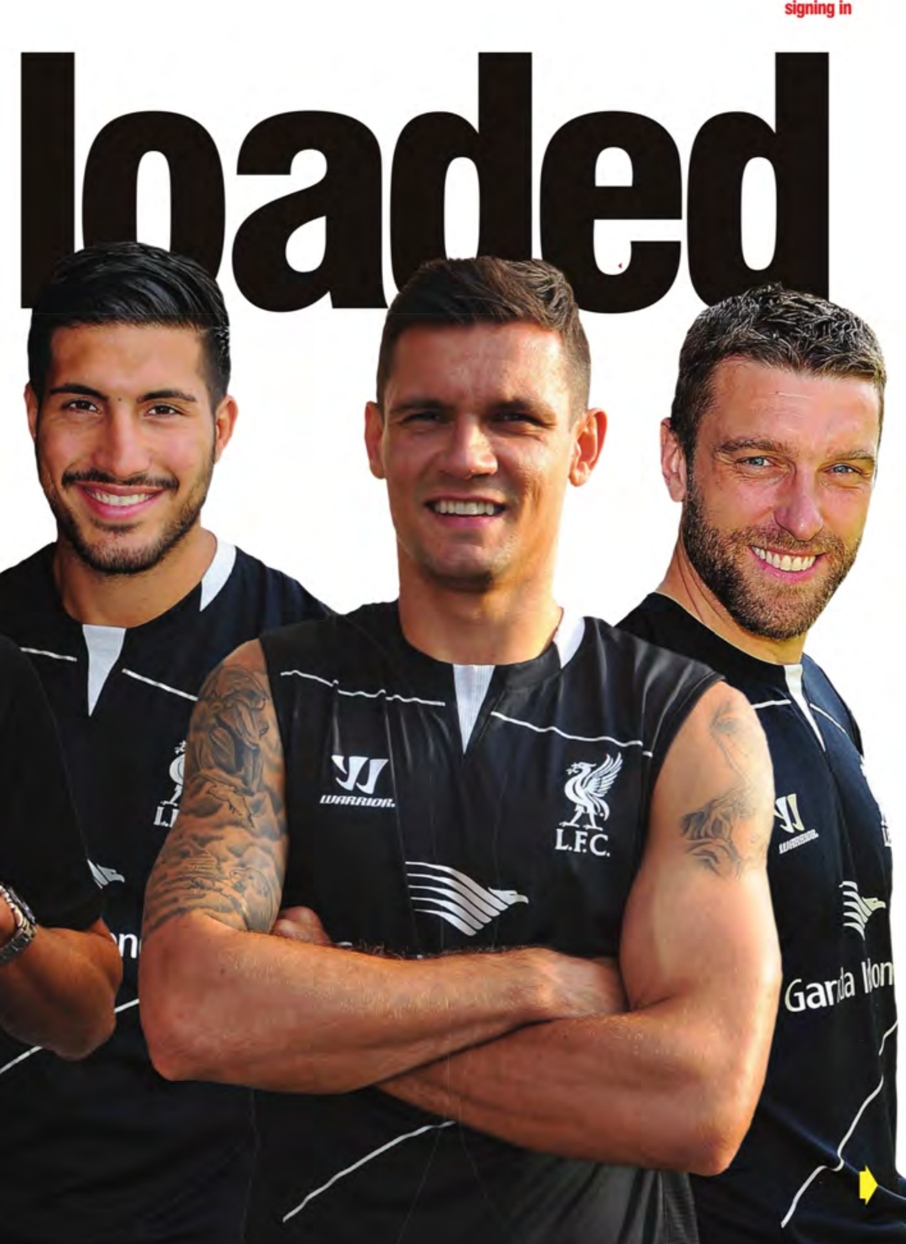



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Name: Divock Origi
Squad no: To be confirmed
Age: 19
Position: Forward
Previous clubs: Genk; Lille
Career apps/goals: 56/9

"AT HIS AGE SOME PLAYERS THINK THEY KNOW IT ALL – HE'S THE OPPOSITE"

Divock Origi has all the qualities to be a sensation when he joins next year, writes James Eastham

They say: "We didn't know that much about him but he did really well for Belgium. He's got that certain special ability. He's strong, quick, he's got plenty of skill, and he can score a goal as well." Reds keeper and international team-mate Simon Mignolet

Random fact: In June a baby dolphin at a Bruges seapark was named 'Origi' in his honour when he scored against Russia at the World Cup.

It was 2 February 2013 when Divock Origi first made his mark in the professional game. That was the day Liverpool's new £10 million signing was handed his senior debut as a 68th-minute substitute for Lille in a home league against struggling Troyes.

Lille were trailing 1-0 as Origi ran on. Bristling with raw nervous energy, the 17-year-old striker was about to make the perfect start to life in the first team. Six minutes later he drifted into space at the far post and realised he was on his own. Gesturing to team-mate Dimitri Payet, who'd driven deep into Troyes territory, he raised his hand for the ball, almost apologetically for drawing too much attention to himself. Payet spotted him and floated the ball to the far post where Origi attacked it perfectly, directing his header downwards past the reach of Troyes keeper Yohann Thuram.

After showing such an assured touch in front of goal, he was now the centre of attention in front of 36,000 screaming fans and looked as though he had no idea how to celebrate. Clearly he hadn't perfected any post-goal moves – but as a shy and unassuming teenager that was never


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going to be his style.

The truth is that Lille fans barely knew Origi when he scored that debut goal, but the Belgian youngster was already on the radar of scouts from leading clubs across the continent. Word had got out about a fast, powerful striker that had excelled for his country at age-group level and outgrown the regional French youth leagues.

It was obvious to anybody watching Origi what the fuss was about. He'd joined Lille from Genk at 15, and in his new club's U17 and U19 sides he was simply too good for his contemporaries. Blessed with almost supernatural pace and power for his age, he would brush opponents aside, occasionally winning games on his own. He had a thunderous right-foot shot and possessed the mazy dribbling skills normally associated with smaller, nimbler players. Sometimes used on the wing, sometimes as a lone striker in a 4-2-3-1 formation, he looked at home wherever he played. Having successfully nurtured Eden Hazard through their youth system a few years earlier, Lille felt sure they had the latest gem from their near-neighbours (the border with Belgium is only 20 minutes away).

Origi's modesty was also obvious. He was quiet on the pitch, focusing on his own game. There was barely a raised voice to team-mates, let alone with the officials. Off the pitch he was reserved but unfailingly polite when approached for an autograph.

After netting that Troyes goal Divock was used sparingly during the final months of 2012/13. Then new Lille coach Rene Girard – replacing Roma-bound Rudi Garcia – promoted him permanently to the first-team squad ahead of the new season. Origi was in and out during the first-half of 2013/14 but gradually found his feet among big-name team-mates like former Chelsea striker Salomon Kalou. As Lille chased a top-three finish during the spring, he became more and more important, scoring four times in a nine-game spell from February to April. Those goals and his ability to link with Kalou were key to Lille finishing third to claim a Champions League qualifiers berth.

There has been great debate about Origi's best position. At Lille last season he variously played as a lone forward, alongside a strike-partner but mainly on the wings, and his most effective position was on the left. From that starting point he could be deadly cutting inside on his stronger right foot – his pace and power making it almost impossible for defenders to stop him. If there was a player he resembled it was Thierry Henry, famously leaving opponents

"There's a bit of Patrick Kluivert in him about the way he plays"

in his wake in this way. Like Henry he may eventually develop into an all-round centre-forward, but observers say he can still improve his hold-up play with his back to goal.

His dad Mike has been a big influence – he knows exactly what Divock is going through because he was a professional footballer himself. A Belgian champion at Genk (1999), he also represented his native Kenya three times at the African Nations Cup. As Lille's head of youth academy Jean-Michel Vandamme puts it: "Divock is an extremely intelligent boy and has been very well brought up."

For all the shyness, Origi appears to be getting more





Scoring v Russia at the World Cup finals

confident. Last season he was unfazed by a live post-match interview on TV station Canal Plus, smiling and chatting amiably in fluent French but on request giving them a flavour of his native Flemish as well. The arc of his career – Genk, Lille, the World Cup, the transfer to Liverpool and the loan-move back to Lille – suggests he'll be much more mature than your average 20-year-old when he arrives at Anfield next summer.

The Henry comparison may be the most apt but Lille team-mate Kalou draws a parallel with another striker: "There's a bit of Patrick Kluivert about him in terms of his movement and the way he plays. He asks you about the runs he should make when you play two upfront, about his positioning in front of goal, and so on." Like everyone else, Kalou is impressed with Origi off the pitch too. "He's what you'd call a nice young lad. He's highly respectful and likes to learn. At his age, some players think they know it all. He's the opposite."

Earlier this year, on one of the few occasions he's talked about himself, Divock said: "I watch as many games as I can to help me progress. I've got a subscription to a video system that allows me to analyse my own performances and study other attackers' performances. I've watched Ibrahimovic a lot to look at how he's aggressive in his play. I also look at Luis Suarez, Cristiano Ronaldo and Eden Hazard."

That's an extraordinary array of attacking talent. Origi and Liverpool's ambition must be that he ranks alongside them one day. So far, he appears to be heading in the right direction.

Name: Lazar Markovic
Squad no: To be confirmed
Age: 20
Position: Winger/ attacking midfielder
Previous clubs: Partizan Belgrade; Benfica
Career apps/ goals: 85/20

"A PLAYER WITH A RARE TALENT – THE RAW POTENTIAL IS ENORMOUS"

How good is Lazar Markovic? They all agree he has everything in his locker, discovers John Hynes

They say: "It was excellent playing with this fantastic kid for six months. He could be one of Europe's best players in his position. He's young, he'll mature, and then nobody will be able to stop him!" Chelsea midfielder Nemanja Matic, who played alongside Markovic at Benfica.
Random fact: He made his full international debut for Serbia aged only 17.

acak is a sport-obsessed city of roughly 75,000 people in a beautiful mountainous part of southern Serbia. Naturally, like most places around the world, the locals adore football, although they spend even more time debating basketball.

That's not a surprise when you consider the country's links to the game. Among the more prominent basketball players from the region are: Miroslav Raduljica, who now features for Milwaukee Bucks in the NBA; Dragan Kicanovic, a member of the Yugoslavia team that won silver at the 1976 Olympic games and then went one better four years later; and Zeljko Obradovic, one of the most successful coaches in European basketball.

With such local heroes to admire it would have been understandable if Lazar Markovic had grown up shooting hoops rather than kicking a football. However, even closer to home, the influence of his father was only ever going to divert him in one direction. Negoslav Markovic was a winger for local team FC Remont and


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"Aside from Ronaldo and Messi he's one of the best I've seen aged 19"

well-known as one of the fastest players around. That speed is something Lazar has clearly inherited – as thousands of Reds will confirm from all the YouTube compilations featuring him. It must have been one of the first traits that Partizan Belgrade's scouts noticed, too, when they watched Markovic playing as a 12-year-old in a youth tournament for his boyhood club Borac Cacak in 2006.

Partizan's academy system also gave the world current Man City duo Stevan Jovetic and Matija Nastasic, and Markovic's progress through the same ranks created a similar buzz among Serbian football fans.

His debut for the first team came in the final fixture of the 2010/11 campaign at the age of 17. Three days before his 18th birthday, and having already represented Serbia's U17 and U21 teams, he received a first senior international call-up for a game with Armenia in February 2012. His pace, allied with close control and dribbling ability, helped him to become a regular in the Partizan team that won the country's title in both 2012 and 2013.

Former Chelsea boss Avram Grant was in charge for the first of those triumphs and the youngster's form led him to comment: "I can say that apart



from Ronaldo and Messi, Markovic is one of the best talents I've ever seen at 19 years of age."

Naturally the winger's contribution to the success brought admiration from around the continent, with Inter Milan and Chelsea said to be keen to acquire his services. After much speculation he did depart his homeland in June of 2013, for Benfica in Portugal.

Still a teenager, it would have been understandable if he struggled to adapt to a new life away from his native land. Tom Kundert, editor of website Portugoal.net, was one of many who monitored his progress. "Markovic hit the ground running," he says. "That was one of the most striking things about his time in Portugal. He came as a scrawny 19-year-old with a big reputation but was completely unfazed in a country with a different culture, climate and language to his own."

Portuguese football journalist Nuno Travasos agrees that the player's acclimatisation was almost faultless: "He didn't seem to find moving difficult.

In action against Olympiacos in Chicago and chatting to the boss

"Lazar wore a cap to walk around Lisbon and explore the city"

He arrived with his brother Filip [also a winger who played for Benfica's B team] and the squad had five or six Serbian players. Lazar was willing to get to know Lisbon well. He wore a cap to help him go unnoticed while he walked around the city."

The fact that Markovic scored a superb individual goal against Sporting Libson during his first few weeks at the club obviously endeared him to his new fanbase. Coach Jorge Jesus was quickly convinced by the ability of the Serb, to the point where he kept him in the side during a pre-Christmas spell when his form dipped. "He was more consistent than you'd expect a 19-year-old to be," Kundert points out. "That lull did happen, but both before and after it he was excellent."

It was around this time that Benfica's Champions League campaign came to a disappointing halt. Accumulating 10 points in their group wasn't enough for progress to the knockout stages as PSG and Olympiacos finished first and second respectively. Markovic featured in five of the half-dozen fixtures.

Still, Benfica would go on to win the Portuguese treble and also reach the final of the 2013/14 Europa League in Turin. Unfortunately Markovic missed that showpiece occasion after picking up a red card in the semi-final triumph over Juventus. At the time of his dismissal, which came after a mass scuffle by the dugouts, he was on the sidelines after being substituted near the end of the second leg. It meant he was suspended for the final – a 4-2 penalty shootout defeat by Sevilla.

Despite the downbeat conclusion to his club season Lazar only has

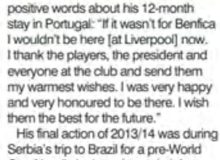




Against Olympiacos again, for Benfica in the Champions League last November

positive words about his 12-month stay in Portugal: "If it wasn't for Benfica I wouldn't be here [at Liverpool] now. I thank the players, the president and everyone at the club and send them my warmest wishes. I was very happy and very honoured to be there. I wish them the best for the future."

His final action of 2013/14 was during Serbia's trip to Brazil for a pre-World Cup friendly in June. In a 1-0 defeat against the tournament hosts he stood out, with some in his homeland believing the effective display in Sao Paulo was what convinced Reds boss Brendan Rodgers to move for him this summer.



One pundit who believes Liverpool have an uncut diamond on their hands is BBC European football writer Andy Brassell: "He's a player with a rare talent. The raw potential is absolutely enormous. If he can progress at the present rate he's going to be worth twice what they paid for him in 12 to 18 months' time."

Markovic admits he's slightly surprised to have arrived in the Barclays Premier League already. Sometimes such transfers can come too early for a player. But chats with England-based compatriots Nemanja Matic, Branislav Ivanovic and the aforementioned Nastasic and Jovetic have informed him of what exactly to expect. "They were all happy to hear I was coming here and said they are looking forward to playing against me."

Ljubinko Drulovic, Serbia's former caretaker coach who was recently succeeded by Dick Advocaat, was also pleased to see Lazar arrive on these shores: "Going to a very strong league will help him even more to become a major player worldwide. He's 20 years old and has a long time to play. Markovic could prove to become a very important player in Europe."

Crucially, nobody at Liverpool believes the Serb is already a finished product. Manager Rodgers said as much when the deal was completed: "Getting him at such a young age is very pleasing for us, because we will be able to work with him to develop his talent within our group and improve him even further. Markovic is the sort of character who is hungry to get better and progress – this is what we look for in players."

"We'll work with him to develop his talent in the group and improve him"

In many ways the signing is similar to that of Daniel Sturridge and Philippe Coutinho: young players who clearly had potential and have progressed and matured since joining LFC in January 2013. Clearly the plan is for Markovic to follow the same path.

Where exactly he will fit into the manager's plans isn't certain yet. During his time in Lisbon he displayed tactical flexibility when required. "He played mainly on the wings," Nuno Travasos says. "But he was always coming into the middle – that's his favourite move – and he also likes to play as second forward with a lot of freedom." Tom Kundert concurs: "He is an attacking midfielder who can play through the middle or on the flanks. Initially he seemed to do most of his best work in central areas, but he later proved very effective making high-speed diagonal runs from either flank."

Modest Markovic isn't concerned about where he's utilised. "I do not mind. The left side is preferable, but I'll play wherever asked. It is not my place to say [what I can offer]. Hopefully my contribution will show on the pitch."



"THERE ARE FEW YOUNGSTERS IN WORLD FOOTBALL WITH HIS VERSATILITY"

Midfielder, wideman, centre-back, full-back...Emre can play anywhere, learns Simon Hughes

They say: "Emre is one of those players that always gives 100 per cent on the pitch. He is a very dynamic player and does the simple things perfectly. He will have a great career at Liverpool. With his work ethic, the fans will love him." Reds legend Sami Hyypia, who managed Can at Bayer Leverkusen.
Random fact: In 2011, Emre captained Germany to the semis of the Under 17s World Cup.

The 2013/14 Bundesliga campaign was due to start in seven days. Bayer Leverkusen were rumoured to be signing a midfielder. Sami Hyypia, then Leverkusen's manager, had regularly dispatched senior scouts to South America over the previous six months, trying to find the player he hoped might make a difference. He wanted Champions League qualification, increased squad numbers and specifically someone who could offer more energy in the centre of the pitch.

"It was a surprise when Emre Can was unveiled at the press conference," recalls *Bild* newspaper writer Philip Arens. "Pep Guardiola was the new coach of FC Bayern [Munich] and had selected Emre in a lot of the friendly matches. There was an impression that Guardiola was going to use him in the league games."

Bayern's idea instead was to release Can to another Bundesliga club for two seasons before signing him back if all went well. Leverkusen would receive a profit for their part in the player's development; Can would return to Bavaria with a heightened sense of experience; Bayern would have a


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Leaving Roma players in his wake in Boston

more rounded individual.

Before Philipp Lahm earned the first of 113 caps for the German national team he was sent to VfB Stuttgart in a similar deal, while more recently Toni Kroos benefited from time at Leverkusen, and David Alaba at Hoffenheim.

Lahm said it was at Stuttgart where he learned "the realities of football." In his 2011 autobiography he reflects on the contrast between his first and second season where he went from being nominated for the German footballer of the year award to missing out on half-a-campaign due to a stress fracture of his foot and then knee-ligament damage. The setbacks "helped me become this player," he wrote.

Having since established himself as arguably the world's most complete full-back, Lahm was also played in central midfield by Guardiola – a position where he was accompanied indeed by Kroos. "At other clubs Can would have been a first-choice player," Arens says. "But this is FC Bayern."

Can moved to Munich in 2009, aged 15, after impressing for the youth teams of Eintracht Frankfurt in his home city. Scouts noted his athletic build, range of passing and straight-backed elegance. "He could also use both feet and play in a number

"He was moved around to learn the diametrics of the pitch"

of positions," Arens says. "In Germany this is not unusual because no player stays in the same position his whole life. At Bayern they move players around to make them understand the diametrics of the pitch. If you are a central midfielder but have experience of playing as a winger, you are more likely to appreciate where the winger is going to run."

Can was called up to various German youth teams before captaining his country at the U17 World Cup in Mexico in 2011. At the quarter-final stage Germany met an England side with four players that would later feature for Liverpool's first team: Raheem Sterling, Brad Smith, Jack Dunn and Adam Morgan. Can was Germany's no8 while Samed Yesil – then of Leverkusen and now of Liverpool – was no9. With his pace and ruthless finishing Yesil exploded into the tournament, scoring six goals – including two against England during a 3-2 victory. Yet Can's influence was considerable. "Can was the first player the Germans looked towards," recalls Adam Morgan. "He was the out-ball whenever they were in trouble. From there he kept everything ticking along."

Although Germany were beaten in the semi-final by hosts and eventual winners Mexico, Can was proud of leading a squad in which he was one of six players with Turkish backgrounds: "As captain it was a failing that ultimately we did not reach the final and win. But every player has learned things that we will carry into our career. Sometimes you learn more from defeat."

Back in Germany he was presented with the prestigious Fritz Walter Medal for his efforts, an award previously won by World Cup winning goalscorer Mario Gotze. "This was recognition that Emre was the key player in his age group," Arens says. "The Leverkusen midfielder Lars Bender is also a past winner. It is not given out lightly and anyone who wins this is expected to become an established international footballer in the future."

Can made his debut for Bayern's senior team in a 2-1 win over Borussia Dortmund in the 2012 DFL Supercup, the German version of the Charity Shield. Positioned at left-back, he lined up alongside Lahm, Jerome Boateng



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and Dante in Bayern's defence, and provided the pass for a goal by Thomas Muller. Coach Jupp Heynckes was impressed with the debutant, who played 70 minutes before being withdrawn. "Emre managed to subdue [Dortmund's flying winger] Marco Reus," Heynckes said. "He can be very pleased."

There was an 18-month wait for a league debut, however. With another Bundesliga title already secured and Bayern a month away from winning the Champions League, Can was selected in the centre of midfield beside Ukrainian international Anatolyi Tymoshchuk during a 4-0 win over Nurnberg at the Allianz Arena. Afterwards Heynckes spoke of Can's "composure in possession of the ball," although – he added – that was "expected."

In the summer of 2013 Can waited a month to make his first appearance for Leverkusen with Hyypia reasoning that he did not want to disrupt tactical patterns that had been worked on during pre-season while Can was still at Bayern. He eventually started a game when Leverkusen visited Manchester United in the Champions League. Despite a 4-2 defeat, his performance was good enough to reportedly impress watching Liverpool scouts in the stands.

In the Bundesliga he was the star player when Leverkusen drew with Bayern at the start of October 2013 and scored a fine individual goal against Augsburg. His versatility and consistency until the winter break impressed Arens. "There were obvious characteristics like the power of his runs and the power of his shot, as well as the balance. But he was never lower than a six out of 10."

In the second half of the season, Can was comfortable enough in his new surroundings to start "dominating" games from the middle of the pitch, while also performing calmly when selected as a left-back or even at centre-half as he did with only 10 minutes' notice at Hamburg after Philipp Wollscheid injured himself in the warm-up. The team was struggling with form at the time and it led to Hyypia being removed as manager the following morning. But Emre was mature enough to play as a central defender and was widely regarded as the team's best performer on the day, during a 2-1 defeat.

His displays for Leverkusen led to Karl-Heinz Rummenigge, Bayern's chairman, comparing Can to Michael Ballack and describing him as "one of biggest talents in German football."

In 32 starts across all competitions during the 2013/14 season, he netted four goals and claimed four assists, despite usually operating in a defensive capacity. He was expected to continue his development at Leverkusen during the forthcoming campaign before returning to Bayern – then Liverpool moved in to sign him.

"Emre has all the abilities to be a huge success in the Premier League," Arens concludes. "He is capable of playing as a number 6, no8 or even a no10 in midfield. But he is also capable of being a centre-back, a left-back or left-winger. There are few 20 year olds in world football with his versatility. There are also few players who can perform with strength in each position."

"Emre has all the abilities to be a huge success in the Premier League"

HAMANN ON EMRE



At the age of 16 or 17 I wasn't ready phsyically for first-team football. Thankfully in my late teens I grew a bit more and that helped me to become a professional footballer.

From what I've seen, I think Emre Can has gone through the same type of late development. In the last year or two he seems to have grown and filled out. That's probably helped him to become a better player. There is no doubt he is talented. That's why Bayern Munich signed him in the first place and also why they had a buy-back clause in the deal that took him to Bayer Leverkusen a year ago.

I think he's exactly the type of player Liverpool should be going for. He's only 20 and has a lot of potential. His time at Leverkusen has definitely been beneficial. Bayer is a great club for young players because they try to play football the right way.

He has a good range of passing and gets around the pitch very well. As I mentioned, he is now a physical presence. There's also the versatility he provides. Brendan Rodgers changed his formation quite a few times last season and you can imagine Can fitting into different roles. However, his best position is probably as a defensive midfielder.

The main area I feel he needs to improve is goalscoring. He's got a powerful shot and the engine to drive into the box and capitalise on opportunities. He just needs to do it more often and is capable if he continues to work hard.

The biggest challenge will be adjusting from Bundesliga to Premier League. I know it isn't easy and the pace of football in this country is even faster now. If he can quickly get up to speed I believe he has the ability to be another very shrewd addition.


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Name: Dejan Lovren
Squad no: 6
Age: 25
Position: Defender
Previous clubs: Dinamo Zagreb; Inter Zapresic (loan); Olympique Lyonnais; Southampton
Career apps/ goals: 185/6

"LIVERPOOL IS MORE THAN A CLUB"

Dejan Lovren tells LFCTV's Matt Walker about his delight in joining the Reds with familiar faces

They say: "I looked quite closely at Dejan Lovren all last season when he was with Southampton and think he's a very good defender and a good option. One of the main reasons that Liverpool didn't win the Premier League title last year wasn't the fact that they didn't score enough goals but because they didn't defend well enough in the last few games." Former Liverpool midfielder Ray Houghton, speaking on Sky Sports News recently
Random fact: Dejan is co-owner of a Croatian-based fashion company.

Dejan Lovren, Liverpool FC player – how does that sound?
It sounds amazing and it's a dream come true. I'm happy and glad to be here. I'm proud and can't wait to start.

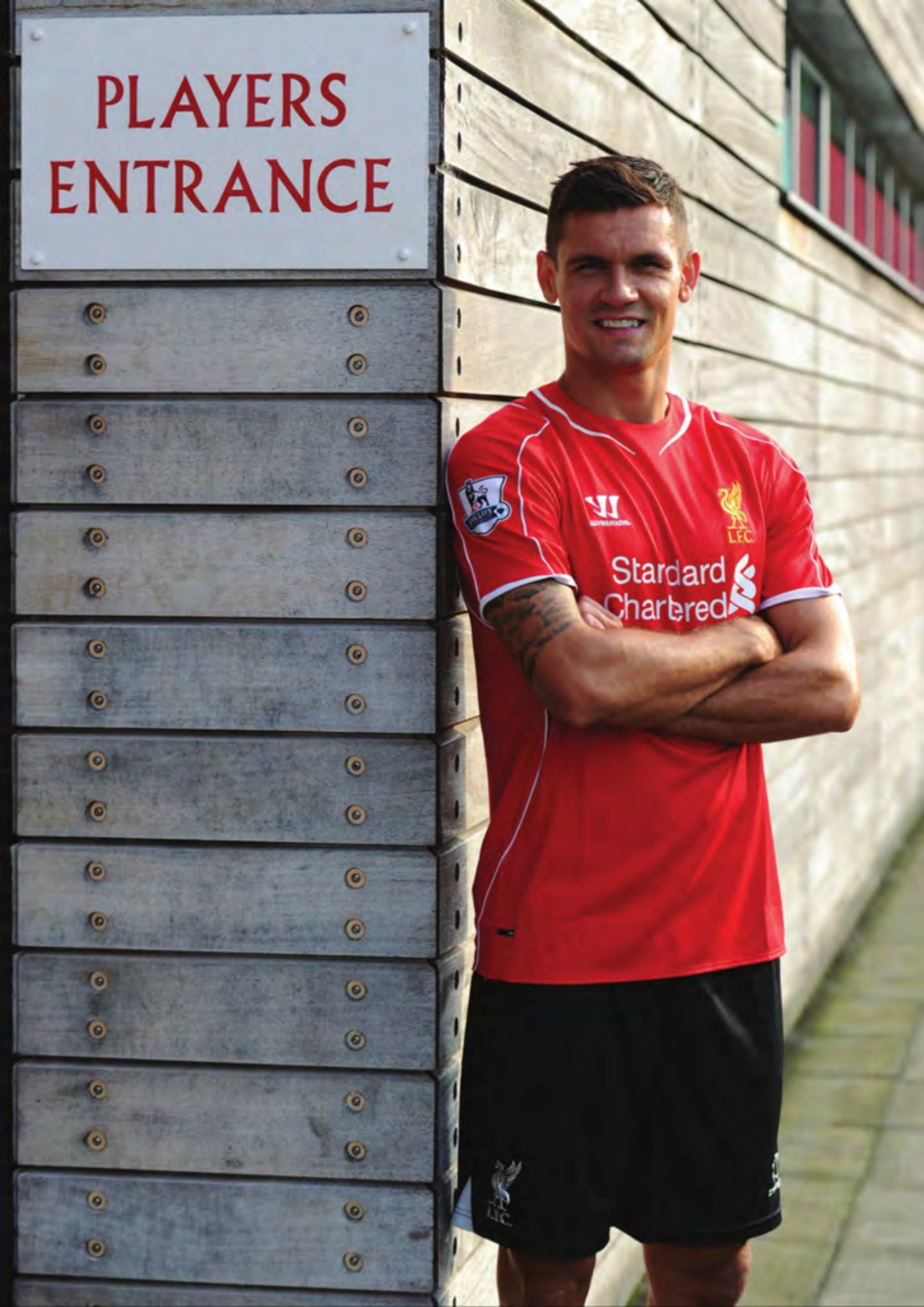
What are you most looking forward to about playing for Liverpool?
I'm most looking forward to Anfield, of course. I played there last season in front of the crowd singing *You'll Never Walk Alone*. That is something very special for every player, every sportsman and every fan. I can't wait to get started.

As a younger player, did you know much about Liverpool?
Yes of course. I grew up in Germany and didn't watch English football that much. But from 2005 watching the [UEFA Champions League] final as a 16-year-old against AC Milan, which was an amazing game, it made me think this club is special. When I come here [to Melwood] and see the trophy [in the foyer] it makes me want to hold it one time [in the future].

What do you know about the club and its history?
I know we have millions and millions of supporters – Liverpool is more than a football club.

You spent one memorable season with Southampton – how do you reflect on that year at St Mary's?
It was just one season and it was really short, but we had a great season with the team and it was




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Challenging Raheem Sterling for Southampton last September

"Last season I sensed the feeling around the stadium at Anfield"

amazing to play at St Mary's. It was the first time I had played in England and I was proud to play for Southampton. I'll take good memories from my time there.

Meeting up with your new team-mates, there are a couple of familiar faces in Rickie Lambert and Adam Lallana – that must be a great feeling for you?

Yes of course, but it's not just Rickie or Adam – I also wanted to meet the other lads and I couldn't wait to start with them. They are top players and top lads. Of course I know Adam and Rickie a lot better from last season – they are great players and they deserve to be here.

What do you think Rickie brings to this Liverpool team?

He has a lot of experience, has played a lot of games in the Premier League and the Championship also. Rickie scored a lot of important goals last season and I learned a lot of things from him. He was like a leader for us.

What can you tell us about Adam Lallana?

I really enjoyed playing with Adam last season – it was amazing. He was the main player, playing all of the games. Like Rickie he is a great leader, even though he is only 26. Now the dream has come true and we will get the chance to play together.

You scored just twice for Southampton, one of them the winner against Liverpool at Anfield in the league last season. What did that moment mean to you?

It was an amazing moment for me because before and after the game I sensed the feeling and atmosphere around the stadium. I will never forget the victory we achieved that afternoon and especially getting the goal. After the game, I said to myself: one day I hope I'll be able to play here for Liverpool.

Apart from the goal, what else do you remember about playing at Anfield that day?

Jose Fonte, my defensive partner at Southampton, told me to listen to *You'll Never Walk Alone* before the first whistle and to enjoy the moment. It was really amazing – I had chills on my arms and it's something that I will never forget. I want to listen to that song every other weekend now I'm with Liverpool.

Which Liverpool players stood out for you in that second game at St Mary's?

It was Sturridge and Suarez of course. But of course the defence too as not a lot of teams come to St Mary's and not concede a goal, so it was a perfect performance by Liverpool.



What have you made of manager Brendan Rodgers' plans for Liverpool, in this coming season and beyond?

We have spoken a little bit. Liverpool have already bought several players, so you can see the club has big ambitions to carry on and not stop here. Of course, I want to be part of the club's ambitions.

And what have you made of Liverpool's playing style under the boss?

I like his style, it's amazing and quite similar to Southampton. Their games last year were great, particularly the win at St Mary's. Liverpool play amazing football so I can't wait to join up with the team. It is a privilege to be here.

For anyone who may not have seen you play, how would you describe yourself as a footballer?

I'm a defender but I don't really like to talk about my qualities, as I want to show them on the pitch. The fans will know from the first minute that I'm a player that will give 100 per cent on the pitch, who will really give everything for the lads.

"Liverpool play amazing football so I couldn't wait to join the team"

This summer you played in your first World Cup finals with your home nation Croatia – what positives did you take from the whole experience?

It was an amazing experience for me as it was the first time I have been to the World Cup finals. I will never forget the opening game against Brazil in Sao Paulo. I don't know how many billion people were watching! But I'm obviously disappointed that we were eliminated after the three games in our group. That said, I think we have a quality team and quality players, so hopefully in the future we will do better as a national team.

And how much are you looking forward to European nights in the UEFA Champions League as a Liverpool player?

I was playing in it before and it is a dream to play in Champions League because you are playing against the big teams and it is good football for everyone. Hopefully we will get a good group and it will be enjoyable for everyone.



We'd all like a bit more of this

THE DYNAMO OF DINAMO



Dejan Lovren was born in present-day Bosnia and Herzegovina, and was raised in Germany before re-settling in Croatia. He signed for Dinamo Zagreb in 2004 and at 17 made his full league debut before a two-year loan at Inter Zapresic where he played in more than 50 games.

Upon his return Dejan was introduced to the Champions League squad and his performances in Europe led to a move in January 2010 to Olympique Lyonnais for a fee of around £8million. In his first full campaign with the French club he starred in the Champions League, scoring his side's first goal away to Benfica. Lyon reached the last 16 before elimination by Real Madrid. Having made his international debut for Croatia in 2009, he missed out on the 2012 European Championship held in Poland and Ukraine because of an Achilles tendon injury.

His consistency at the heart of Lyon's defence led to a transfer to Southampton where he appeared 31 times, scoring twice. One of his goals came against Liverpool at Anfield during a 1-0 win for the Saints. Upon joining Liverpool last month, Reds manager Brendan Rodgers described him as a "very important signing, he is a commanding and powerful presence and clearly has leadership skills. He fits the profile of player we are looking for. His peak years are ahead of him and I believe he will improve even further with us."


WARRIOR
L.F.C.
Standard

Name: Adam Lallana
Squad no: 20
Age: 26
Position: Midfielder
Previous clubs: Southampton; Bournemouth (loan)
Career apps/goals: 250/58

"HE'S OUTRAGEOUSLY TALENTED AND WORKS VERY HARD"

What makes Adam Lallana special? John Hynes asks his first coach and a South Coast reporter

They say: "In my opinion, if Adam Lallana had a Brazilian nationality, a Spanish nationality, if he were another Mata, Oscar, Hazard or any of these types of players then for sure he would be going with their national side. I truly believe that." Former Saints boss Mauricio Pochettino speaking in February
Random fact: Adam has a Spanish grandfather.

When Terry Wateridge was busy running football sessions for kids at Bournemouth FC's Centre of Excellence the last thing he needed was for a youngster on the sidelines to be constantly pestering him.

"He was about 6 or 7 years old and used to beg me to play even though he was still too young at the time," remembers Terry. "He'd ask all the coaches to let him take part."

Eventually Wateridge relented and allowed the boy in questions to join in with the older kids. Instantly, he looked at home among his seniors. "Adam Lallana was far ahead of everyone else in the group. The first thing that stood out was his unbelievably quick feet. He was a natural who could just play.

"Even being able to use both his left and right foot equally well seemed to be instinctive. We haven't got too many genuinely two-footed players in England but Adam is one of them


WARRIOR
LFC
20

Obviously he's continued to work on that strength since then. There was also flair to his game, which is unusual for someone so young. Sometimes that is coached out of players. I always try to encourage it, let lads like Adam be natural and express themselves."

Ability wasn't the young Lallana's only attribute. There was also his boundless enthusiasm. Wateridge continues: "I know a lot of boys love football but he just couldn't get enough. He always had a ball. I don't think I ever saw him without one. Adam was an exceptionally chirpy lad, forever smiling. When he took to the pitch for a game it was the same. He loved being out there.

"He wanted to soak up all and advice and help we gave, he was like a sponge. His family knew how committed he was and ensured he never missed training."

The instinctive skills, combined with the obvious progress that Adam made while with Bournemouth, meant it wasn't a major shock when Southampton asked him to move along the South Coast and join their academy set-up as a 12-year-old. "Adam was our best player and I didn't want to lose him," adds Terry. "In the end though I realised it was impossible to keep him when a Premier League club were interested. Now I have to admit, time has proved it was a good decision. What Southampton did to help him develop was brilliant. It worked out very well for Adam and that's the most important thing." Lallana quickly adapted to life with his new club. By the time he reached his 16th birthday he was

ON LFCTV duty with Claire, Robbie and Ian



"People would discuss endlessly where to play him in the team"

already in the reserve team.

It was around that time Adam Leitch started reporting on the Saints for the *Southern Daily Echo*. "Immediately you could see Lallana had quality, he really caught the eye," the journalist says. "He was the focus of that reserve side, playing in a no10 role behind two strikers. His job was to pick up the ball and do what he does best.

"Quick feet, vision and a killer pass, he had nearly everything. Finishing is something he's developed more latterly but even before then he did contribute goals regularly. The fact that he's genuinely two-footed made him stand out. He was so comfortable [on each side] that you had no idea whether he was left-footed or right-footed.

"Pace wasn't a huge asset of his but I think he's actually got quicker in recent years. Besides, sprinting past a full-back isn't what his game is about."

Despite the teenager's obvious ability there was a concern about whether he'd make it to the very top. The problem was where to put him in the team. "When you saw Gareth Bale as a youngster it was obvious he would spend many years playing at either left-back or left-wing before he developed in to the player he has become," Leitch explains. "He was a natural fit. With Adam it wasn't so clear. You couldn't justify building a team around someone so young.

"At the same time you couldn't just let his immense talent go to waste. People discussed it endlessly and would come up with suggestions about where he could fit in. Initially Southampton phased him in to the side and it was a case of his undoubted talent seeing him through."

Difficult times for the club were arguably the making of the player. Saints were relegated to the Championship in 2005 and spent four years at that level before dropping into League One at the end of 2008/09. Leitch continues: "Adam is outrageously talented and he works very hard. To make it, you usually need those qualities and a little bit of luck. His good fortune came in the shape of Southampton's descent at the time. Obviously it was terrible for the club as they were trying to stave off administration. It meant they had to play the youngsters – that was the only choice. Adam was one of those and he took his chance superbly. Competitive football at such a young age really benefited him."

It meant that when the club began to recover, Lallana was established in the side. Operating in a roaming left-side-of-midfield role, he played a vital part in





"I get the impression that he feels now is his time – his best is to come"

lifting the Saints back up to the Premier League. Although younger than a lot of his colleagues he also became captain of the side. Rickie Lambert once commented: "I look up to Adam, even though I'm older than him."

When Saints returned to the top flight for 2012/13 the team switched to a 4-2-3-1 formation with Lallana operating anywhere along the line behind the lone frontman, quite often Lambert. Adam's impressive performances, goals and assists led to his England debut against Chile in November 2013 – and ultimately his transfer to Anfield.

"I get the impression that he feels now is his time," Leitch reasons. "He's more than done his apprenticeship. During the World Cup people constantly referred to him and Luke Shaw as 'the Saints youngsters'. But Adam's not [a youngster]. He's 26 now and has played an awful lot of games. He's very experienced and should have his prime years ahead of him."

Though obviously keen to become a Red, the players was understandably sad to leave the club where he'd grown up. That was emphasised by a thank-you message sent to the club's supporters via Leitch's newspaper, the Southern Daily Echo. "It wasn't something we were expecting. Most players keep their head down once they've signed a contract somewhere else. There was no agent or advisor involved. Adam was on holiday after he'd signed for Liverpool and got in touch.

"He just wanted to let the Saints fans know that he was very thankful for everything Southampton did for him and the way the fans had treated him. I think it was a classy move. He wrote the words himself and oversaw the design of it. I think it says a lot about him and his character. It's that which has helped him get so far and should help him do well at Liverpool."

Liverpool signing and England man

QUICK Q&A



AFTER SPENDING SO MUCH OF YOUR LIFE ON THE SOUTH COAST, HOW BIG A STEP IS THIS FOR YOU?

It's huge. Liverpool have got so much history and after the season they had last season, I can't wait to get started and help build on that. Champions League football is back – everyone is telling me that the atmosphere at Anfield is something special. It's great that I can continue my career with Rickie Lambert as well.

HOW MUCH OF A HELP IS HE GOING TO BE NOW YOU'RE BOTH HERE?

A massive help. I've spent the last four or five years with him. We've had great careers at Southampton and achieved something special, but we're both looking forward to the new challenge.

WHO WAS THE FIRST PERSON YOU SPOKE TO ABOUT THIS MOVE?

Probably my dad, my family and my wife. A lot of my close friends are Southampton fans but they understand this is an opportunity that you just can't turn down. At the age I'm at, it's the right step.

DO YOUR AMBITIONS AS A PLAYER CHANGE NOW THAT YOU'RE AT A CLUB LIKE THIS?

They have to – it's a huge club that wants to win titles and compete in the Champions League. I'm just going to push to do the best I can.


WARRIOR
L.F.C.
Standard
Chartered

Name: Rickie Lambert
Squad no: 9
Age: 32
Position: Forward
Previous clubs: Southampton; Bristol Rovers; Rochdale; Stockport County; Macclesfield Town; Blackpool
Career apps/ goals: 276/146

"HE'S THE ONE I'M MOST EXCITED ABOUT SEEING"

Rickie Lambert gets the no9 shirt – and one former wearer is delighted, writes William Hughes

They say: "Rickie will just get better and better as he becomes more familiar with the group and becomes accustomed to the playing style. He'll get goals for us and I'm delighted he's here. He's a wonderful character." Reds boss Brendan Rodgers
Random fact: Rickie scored all 34 penalties that he took for Southampton.

It has been quite a year for Rickie Lambert, who became Liverpool's first signing of the summer in early June. The striker's 12 months to remember began on 8 August 2013 when he was called into the England squad for the first time at the age of 31. On the same day his wife gave birth to their third child.

The script got better. Six days later he made his international debut for England, replacing Wayne Rooney in the Wembley friendly against Scotland – and he headed the winning goal in a 3-2 win – just 223 seconds after entering the fray. He continued his form into the 2013/14 season by contributing 13 league goals in 37 games as Southampton enjoyed another good Premier League campaign, finishing eighth.

Rickie's subsequent joy at moving to Liverpool has been well-documented but he received a further fillip ahead of the US tour when he was handed the

"I would have been happy with any number but the no9 is special for me"

no9 shirt previously worn by greats such as Ian St John, Ian Rush, Robbie Fowler and Fernando Torres.

"It's a great number for me to wear for Liverpool," he says. "I've always seen myself as a no9 as it's the type of player I am, and to get it at Liverpool is unbelievable. I would have been happy with any number, as long as that badge is on the front. But to get no9 is special for me."

Lambert made his Liverpool bow in the pre-season friendly at Preston. He'd reported back for training a week ahead of schedule following his commitments with England at the World Cup where he'd taken his cap-count to seven. "I was a little bit nervous because it was always going to be a special occasion pulling on that top for the first time but I enjoyed it," he said after the game at Deepdale.

Reds legend Robbie Fowler believes Rickie, who was released by LFC as a youngster, will be one to watch in the 2014/15 season: "He's the one I'm most excited about. When you look at his life story it's incredible to think that he's signed for Liverpool after having been let go as a schoolboy. I know myself what it's like to join Liverpool for a second time as a local lad. I won a lot of medals with Liverpool but nothing topped that feeling of signing for the second time.

"You can look at how hard Rickie's worked in his professional career and you know what it means to him. I'm really looking forward to seeing how he gets on this season."



COMING THROUGH



Liverpool FC has also announced that seven Academy-based players have signed professional contracts. They include defender Kevin Stewart, who figured in the first-team friendlies against Brondby and Preston, and goalkeeper Lawrence Vigouroux, who played for the U21s against Fulham last season while on trial. The pair join playmaker Sergi Canos, defensive midfielder Pedro Chirivella, Wales winger Harry Wilson, midfielder Jordan Williams and striker Sheyi Ojo in penning pro deals.


WARRIOR
BARRET


L.F.C.

Didi HAMANN

It's crucial that our new signings settle in as quickly as possible



The LFC squad limber up on the recent US tour

How good is he? It's a question that will have formed in the minds of many Liverpool players over recent weeks. They'll have been directing it towards each of the many new signings that Brendan Rodgers has made.

As a footballer that is only natural. When someone arrives you usually aren't sure about the impact they'll have. Obviously if it's a world-class talent, such as when Gerard Houllier brought in Jari Litmanen from Barcelona, you know all about them already. But the majority of players aren't in that bracket. When Gerard signed a number of players from France they were unfamiliar to us.

All players arrive with question marks hanging over them. Will they be able to cope with the pressures of playing for a big club that has to win every week? If they are from abroad, can they make the necessary adjustments to succeed in a new country?

When I came to England from Bayern Munich in 1998 I was shocked by just how different the football was. It took me a few weeks to get up to speed with the pace, intensity and the fact that what was considered a definite foul in the Bundesliga was quite often ignored or not even noticed by English referees. That year at Newcastle United allowed me to adapt and helped massively when I then moved to Liverpool. The fact that I also had some grasp of English was a big benefit.

The first day that a new player trains with the squad he knows he's being assessed by everyone. That is a test of their mentality. I've seen some lads come in and be brilliant that day and in the pre-season friendlies that followed, but then not so good once the real games arrived. They just couldn't produce when it mattered.

The opposite is true, too. There have been new lads who came in and didn't look anything special in training, but when we had competitive fixtures they were ready and delivered the goods.

The problem for managers and clubs is you can never be certain about any transfer. Nowadays everything is looked at before a decision is made to bring in someone. That can include who their friends are, how they spend their spare time, their family's background and so on.

"Handling expectation is one of the main challenges of joining Liverpool"

Not even spending a vast sum ensures the player will be a success. My take on it is that if Liverpool offer someone a contract they must have some talent. Bringing that out isn't easy and the reasons why it doesn't happen aren't always obvious to fans. What if his wife and kids can't settle in the area? He's going to find life very difficult then. It's often the unseen problems that prove decisive in why a player doesn't make it.

Anyone arriving this summer does so knowing that there is more expectation on the squad to do well after finishing second. Handling that is part of the challenge and we're about to find out who's up for it.

Follow Didi on Twitter @DietmarHamann

TICKET TO RIDE

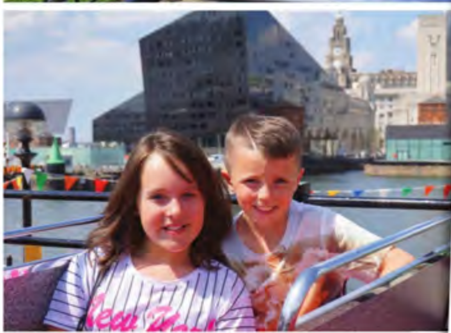
All aboard a brand new bus tour from the centre of Liverpool to the famous home of the Reds




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An LFC tour bus destined for Anfield is the last place you might expect to find a family of West Brom fans… until the mum among the contingent from the Black Country explains: "My youngest is a huge Liverpool supporter. Lionel Messi used to be his favourite player but for the last few years it's been all about Steven Gerrard. He has Gerrard on the back of his shirts and on posters all over his wall. So I promised I'd take him to Liverpool and after saving up for a few years we're here now. He can't wait to get to the ground."

The young lad's excitement is matched by the enthusiasm of our tour guide Phil as we depart Albert Dock on a day so glorious that it is impossible to locate a cloud in the endlessly blue sky.

Welcome aboard the City Explorer Bus to Anfield Stadium – LFC's very own open-top tour. Recently launched with the help of John Aldridge, it provides a direct transport route from the city to the stadium, travelling through historic streets and past landmark buildings with lots of insight into LFC's rich history along the way.




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As the bus winds its way along Liverpool's spectacular waterfront and northwards towards the famous ground, Phil – along with his guide-dog Varley – describes himself as neither a Red nor a Blue but someone who "hopes that both of the city's teams do well." Plenty of his expansive knowledge is football-based but there are also loads of facts about the city itself – from the Liver Building to the Mersey Tunnel and all points between.

Moving away from the bustling streets and towards the suburbs there is a stop at Everton Park – the 'eye over the city' that affords a view across the Mersey and Wirral towards the Welsh mountains which are clearly visible today. The subject of Everton FC arises and brings panto-style booing from one young Red. Phil explains how the history of the two clubs will forever be intertwined just as we get our first glimpse of the Kop from the bottom of Walton Breck Road.

That first sight of the stadium always brings a rush of excitement whether it's for the first time or on a regular basis. "There it is!" yells one youngster. Cameras at the ready, the passengers snap away as the statue of Shanks becomes visible. Near the Paisley Gateway our bus pulls up. From here the passengers alight for the opportunity to go on a stadium tour and experience the club's interactive museum to learn more about LFC – a story that began back in 1892 and continues to this day.

With a return trip included, tickets for the bus tour can be purchased via tourist outlets in Liverpool or from www.liverpoolfc.com/history/tour-and-museum/home.





"IT'S NOT EVERY DAY YOU SEE AN ERUPTING VOLCANO ON THE WAY TO A GAME"

What must it have been like, to be part of the Liverpool team that flew to Iceland 50 years ago to begin the club's long love affair with Europe? Simon Hughes finds out

With the exception of Nuuk in Greenland, Iceland's Reykjavik is the world's northern most capital city. Its geysers and stark lunar terrain provides a unique landscape for tourists searching for an edge-of-earth experience. In 2013, indeed, it attracted 4.3 million visitors. In 1964, however, it was a place where only the most adventurous explorers would go.

Around the time Liverpool FC embarked on their first European expedition, to face Knattspyrnufelag Reykjavikur (or simply KR Reykjavik), Sir Edmund Hillary was training in Iceland's crevasse fields in preparation for a two-year trek across the Himalayas. Just over a decade earlier he'd become the first man on the planet to reach the summit of Mount Everest.

Liverpool's journey to the remote country's point of entry was unconventional. The team travelled six hours by bus to Prestwick in Scotland and stayed in Butlins, Ayrshire at the behest of Bill Shankly.

"Nobody knew we were staying in a holiday camp until we actually arrived at the gates," recalls Willie Stevenson, Liverpool's Leith-born midfielder. "From the front of the bus, Bill stepped forward and informed the security guard with the infamous words: 'We are Liverpool Football Club and we are on our way to Europe...'

"The guard responded: 'I think you're on the wrong road'."

From Scotland, the party made the once-a-week chartered flight over the North Atlantic Ocean. There were reports of a volcanic eruption off the coast of Iceland with a new island being formed as a result. Stevenson remembers the detour and the breathtaking aerial views as the pilot made his unscheduled approach.

"We were quite high up but close enough to see lava spilling everywhere. It's not every day you see an erupting volcano when you're on the way to a game."

Stevenson was the only player in the Liverpool squad to have previously


Willie Stevenson

"We were high up but close enough to see lava spilling out all over"

experienced European football having represented Glasgow Rangers on their run to the semi-finals of the European Cup in 1960. En route they eliminated Anderlecht, Bratislava and Sparta Rotterdam before being knocked out by Eintracht Frankfurt, who eventually succumbed to the great Real Madrid side that included Ferenc Puskas and Alfredo di Stefano in the Hampden Park final. A scoreline of 7-3 reflected Madrid's strength.

"Frankfurt scored six at Ibrox and six at their place, giving them a 12-4 aggregate win," Willie says. "They were one hell of a side and we deservedly got a pasting. God knows what the score would've been had we played Madrid. It might've been in double-figures. I went to the final at Hampden as a spectator and like anyone else who was there – I can tell you that Madrid were arguably the greatest club side there has ever been."

Stevenson left Rangers for Liverpool in 1962, not long after promotion from the old Second Division was secured. Despite exchanging regular European football for a team only expected to achieve moderate success in England's top flight, the Scot could see there was a "special" desire on the corridors of influence at Anfield.

"When I first met Bill Shankly, his charisma shone through. But like a lot of players – and Ron Yeats and Ian St John will probably agree with this – I thought he was a bit over-ambitious because he told me that within three years Liverpool would be champions of England. Instead we did it within 18 months."

A 5-0 victory over Arsenal had secured the championship in April 1964. "I don't think any of the players understood the magnitude of what we'd achieved. There was a feeling among the squad that other teams underestimated us and even though we had a year's experience in the First Division, we still managed to catch a lot of teams cold. It was only when we finished seventh in 1964/65 that it made many of us realise just what an achievement winning the title actually was."

Before entering European competition for the first time, the Liverpool squad undertook a tour of United States. It was gruelling preparation. "I'd never been to the US before so it was a completely new experience for me," Stevenson continues. "Even then, the stadiums over there were from a different age compared to what we were used to in Britain. We took the tour seriously and wanted to win every game and really make our mark over there because we were the First Division champions and wanted to prove to the world that we could compete with foreign opposition."

There were mixed results. The game Stevenson remembers most was one against German side Duisburg in Vancouver. "It was held on the anniversary of VE day. As you can imagine, it was right old battle. Gordon Wallace broke his leg."

Halfway through the trip, Shankly


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Liverpool sigraði K.R. auðveldlega í gærkvöldi með 5 mörkum gegn 0

A page from an Icelandic newspaper at the time

joined up with the team. "Shanks never used to come on tours with us but he made an effort this time. He liked his home life with Nessie. Shanks was fascinated by New York and Chicago. James Cagney was his favourite actor so when we visited Manhattan he was visiting all the famous sites and bars that he drank in. He was there for a holiday."

Despite being league champions, Liverpool were still a relatively new squad. All the time spent together provided an ideal opportunity for group bonding. "There were an awful lot of jokers in that dressing-room. You had to keep your wits about you. Ian St John was ruthless, as was Geoff Strong. Tommy Smith was another. The best prank ever played was on Bobby Graham when we were staying in San Francisco. We were meant to be flying to Vancouver so we all piled on the bus on the way to the airport and Bob Paisley read out a list of names to check everyone was there. When it came to Bobby, one of the lads just shouted 'Here' and that was that.

"Unfortunately, Bobby was still in the hotel fast asleep. Bob Paisley only realised this by the time we arrived in Vancouver so he wasn't best pleased. From then on Bob ran a head-count by walking up and down the bus, checking manually. Bobby got another flight the next day."

When time came for Liverpool's trip to Reykjavik two months later, it was Ian St John and Alf Arrowsmith's turn to miss the plane – this time through injury. Even with absentees, Reykjavik chairman Einar Saemundsson was not in a confident mood, telling the local


Liverpool FC: the reigning champions in 1964

"The Icelandic players were a really good bunch of lads"

press: "Only one thing is certain – this is the end of the road into Europe for us. But with such opponents it will have been worthwhile. We expect to receive a lesson."

On 17 August 1964 the two sides met in the European Cup preliminary round first leg. Gordon Wallace, who had miraculously recovered from the leg-break suffered two months earlier in the States, scored Liverpool's first goal in Europe after just three minutes. "The pitch was bobbly and the stands were really close to the pitch," recalls Willie. "There were more than 10,000 inside the stadium and they were making a right din. From experience I knew that if you gave amateur sides like Reykjavik a bit of hope, they'd come on top and start kicking you. But as soon as we scored, their confidence went and we ran out quite easy winners, 5-0."

A month later Reykjavik – who were also Iceland's first side to compete in Europe – made the return trip to Anfield, losing 6-1. "Their players were a really good bunch of lads. They brought all of their families over and treated it as a holiday. I think they had a few nights out in Liverpool after the game. The tie was won but we still managed to rattle another six past them. I hadn't scored and was getting a bit frustrated. But the Kop took pity on Reykjavik and by the time we'd reached double-figures on aggregate, the fans started booing us whenever we attacked. It was typical Scouse humour. I still ended up getting a goal though."

Although Liverpool finished seventh in the First Division that season, further victories in the European Cup over Anderlecht and Cologne secured a semi-final tie with Inter Milan, a tie infamous in Liverpool's history.

"In the first leg at Anfield the crowd was unbelievable. We'd won the FA Cup a few days before for the first time and they were right up for it. The Italians froze. Of course we then lost 3-0 in the San Siro and got knocked out. It still hurts when I think about that game in Milan. I could tell in the first five minutes that the referee wasn't going to do us any favours. There were some very odd decisions.

"I'm sure if we'd beaten Inter Milan we'd have beaten Benfica in the final as well. We were terribly unlucky. That Liverpool team was the best one I'd played in and far better than the Rangers side in the late 50s and early 60s. We were younger and hungrier for success. Had we won the European Cup I'm sure it would have spurred us on to achieve even more success in the decade.

"It's clear that the European game has changed a lot since the Sixties, purely because of the number of games involved in the Champions League. In 1964/65 we only needed to pass through four rounds and we'd be in the final, which in theory made it an easier competition to win. But Reykjavik aside, they were all really tough games that tested us all the way. Clubs from the Eastern Bloc and from countries like Belgium, Portugal and France would pose far more problems back then than they do now. We were complete novices, so just to get to the semi-final against Inter, then managed by one of the most experienced coaches in world football, Helenio Herrera, was a huge achievement."

No wonder Willie is proud that he was there 50 years ago, when Liverpool began their Continental odyssey in Iceland. "It's hard to get your head around what has happened since that match, in terms of the trophies that Liverpool have won. It was a humble beginning."



The Reykjavik team land at Speke Airport



Morgunbladid

Grikkir heimta herlið sitt úr NATO

Skæruliðar frá Indónesiu

WHAT REYKJAVIK DID NEXT...

KR is the oldest and most successful club in Iceland and the country's reigning champions. After winning the inaugural Icelandic title in 1912 the club's board decided to wear the colours of the English champions from that year – since then, KR have played in the black and white stripes of Newcastle United. Until 1968 they'd dominated the domestic game, winning 20 league titles, but there was a 31-year wait until their 21st, after suffering relegation in 1977. KR share a long-standing local rivalry with Fram and have produced a few footballers that have achieved success abroad. Eidur Gudjohnsen, Arnar Gunnlaugsson (former Bolton) and Brynjar Gunnarson (Reading) are ex KR players. Jim Bett, the former Scotland international, more famous from his time at Aberdeen, played for KR in 1994.



SCREEN LEGENDS

The hit play about Istanbul has been made into a movie – look for it at cinemas soon

Throughout the 2014/15 season we'll be celebrating 50 years in Europe and counting down to the 10th anniversary of Istanbul in both the monthly magazine and LFC's matchday programme for our UEFA Champions League fixtures.

Look out, too, for a fantastic new movie about arguably the greatest night in Liverpool FC's history – the club and Stray Dogs Films have announced the worldwide release of new independent British film *One Night in Istanbul*.

Supported by fans and players alike and taking as its backdrop the 2005 UEFA Champions League final, the film is due to be released in cinemas in September. Followed by a Home Entertainment release, this will be an unmissable chance to re-live memories of that legendary night in Turkey.

Based on the original hit stage play by Nicky Allt – interviewed elsewhere in this issue of the magazine – the film follows two down-on-their-luck Liverpool cabbies, Tommy and Gerry, who strike an unusual deal with a local gangster to take their sons on a trip of



The new movie is based on the original hit stage play by Nicky Allt

a lifetime, to watch their beloved team play in the final in Istanbul. However, big trouble awaits them in the form of two ruthless crooks and a huge bag of stolen cash. It's not long before the pressure on the pitch is almost as heated as the action off it.

Featuring a host of well-loved acting talent, including Paul Barber (*The Full Monty, Only Fools and Horses*), Samantha Womack (*Eastenders, Game On*), Steven Waddington (*Sleepy Hollow, The Parole Officer*) and Lucien Laviscount (*Waterloo Road, Grange Hill*), *One Night in Istanbul* will appeal not only to Reds fans all over the world, as well as other football fans, but to anyone who enjoys a good comedy. Watch this space…

ALLEN

24

data mining

HEY JOE...

Joe Allen is also the name of:

A famous American restaurant in London's theatreland where (even more random fact) TV presenter Graham Norton used to be a waiter.





A former NASA astronaut who flew on the Space Shuttle Columbia in 1982 and Discovery in 1984.

RYDYM YN LERPWL

That's Welsh for 'We are Liverpool'. Joe is a fluent Welsh speaker – check out the BBC Wales clip at www.bbc.co.uk/cymru/chwaraeon/fidio/jallen_sheff.shtml. Here are some Welsh footballing terms to keep handy – good luck with the pronunciations!

PEL-DROED – FOOTBALL

GOL – GOAL

PENALTY – CIC O'R SMOTYN

SGORWYR – SCORERS

OFFSIDE – CAMSEFYLL

FREE-KICK – CIC GOSB

OUR BALL! – PEL NI!

2013/14 PL STATS

1438 MINUTES PLAYED

15 STARTS

824 PASSES - 87% ACCURACY

1 GOAL FROM 15 SHOTS

85% OF TACKLES WON



THE BOSS ON JOE...

"I believe that Joe is one of the top Premier League talents. He came in here and started his first season remarkably well. He then had a difficult period, came back and did very well in training and then got injured. His first season was a bit up and down, purely because of injury. But I know his talent better than anyone. The way he presses the ball and looks after the ball – in this country sometimes it can be frowned upon. People look for midfield players that are either scoring goals and wanting goals or smashing into challenges. Joe is a really intelligent footballer – he understands the ball, he protects the ball really well for the team, and his work-rate and intensity is incredible. He's going to prove to be an outstanding player here."

LANDMARKS

MAY 2007 – league debut as a 75th minute substitute for Swansea City at home to Blackpool under then manager Roberto Martinez

APRIL 2009 – scores first goal for the Swans at Cardiff City in the South Wales derby

MAY 2009 – senior debut for Wales in a 1-0 friendly win v Estonia in Cardiff (17 international caps to date)

JULY 2012 – part of the Team GB squad that competed in the London Olympics along with Craig Bellamy (then with Liverpool) and Daniel Sturridge (Chelsea)

AUGUST 2012 – man of the match for Liverpool on his home debut v Manchester City (2-2 draw) and later named club player of the month for August

MAY 2014 – scores first league goal for Liverpool in the 3-3 draw at Crystal Palace



Jamaica Street skatepark photos by www.theliverpolitan.com

back in the hood

Liverpool Ladies midfielder Amanda Da Costa on the Women's Super League season so far, keeping it real in the community, and why failure can be key to success

After a short mid-season break where I found myself enjoying some time away from football with my loved ones in New York, it's been back to business as usual in Liverpool.

My team-mates and I were faced with a huge test for our first game back against an always strong Arsenal side. Similar to us, the Arsenal Ladies had their fair of challenges in the first half of the season as they too were undergoing some changes within their squad. Nonetheless a bottom-of-the-table Arsenal side is still just as talented and experienced as ever, and they would come out victorious on the day as we started the second half of our season with an unfortunate setback.

One of the most special things about a championship team is their desire to turn negatives into positives. After regrouping from the loss, we were unbeaten after four straight matches and found ourselves sitting closer to the top of the table which is exactly where we wanted to be.

While we've found ourselves

"A special thing about a top team is turning negatives always into positives"

working extremely hard to correct the problems on the pitch and deliver winning performances, we have also had the time to reach out to kids in the nearby community in order to leave a positive impact on their lives. Our 2013 championship trophy has been on a school tour, with my team-mates and I taking it along so the kids can relish in its beauty and take 'selfies' with our pride and joy. At these visits we've also taken part in Q&A sessions where all of the kids have been surprisingly engaged and willing to find out more about us and what we do for a living.

If I can pause for a moment, I realise that you, the readers, are always


With team-mate Becky Easton at a local school

On the ball against Man City Women

Practice makes perfect!

hearing about athletes reaching out to the community, and see your standard photograph of one athlete smiling with a group of children, but you rarely hear of what exactly is said during these meet-and-greets. My American comrade Libby Stout joined me at Halton Stadium (home to the Liverpool Ladies) for a school-wide sports day with several hundred children competing in various athletic games on the pitch, cheered on by their classmates, while others took part in indoor activities. Libby and I had the opportunity to spend 30 minutes at a time with groups of students of all different ages throughout the entire day, and tried give them a bit of motivation.

One of the common questions we were asked was: why do you play football? Now that is a very



"Why do you play football? It's quite a difficult question to answer!"

complicated question if you ask me! But I tried my best to answer. For me, football has always been my escape, and my place where I have always gone to find myself. It has taught me life-lessons that I take with me wherever I go, and has allowed me to see and experience different parts of the world. I have made some of the best friends I will ever meet through this sport, and most importantly it has given me the gift of failure.

Let me explain. If I failed 1000 times, that still wouldn't be enough. It is through all of these failures, the doubts, and the tears, where I have figured out how to succeed – and I think that is one lesson that is hard to find.

Personally, I wouldn't find a simple life very fulfilling. I'm far too competitive for that. I think that it's fascinating how our mind can push us further than our bodies think they can go, and I find joy in exploring my limits every day I lace up my boots and go to work. I mess up a lot…but I kind of like that about myself.

What I love even more is that I have an outlet such as football which always encourages me to be creative,



"I find it fascinating how our minds push our bodies further than they think"

to make mistakes, to solve them and to be better because of them.

The message I try to deliver to the kids whom I am lucky enough to impact upon isn't to be a professional athlete or a footballer. I just want them to understand that if they find something that they love – anything at all – the passion that they will feel from doing it will enable them to push their limits, discover new things about themselves, be better at their chosen path and experience things that they never thought they would experience. Following what we are passionate about, and trusting where it can take us, is one of the most natural and rewarding things we can do. What we can gain from it is boundless.

In short, I play football because I love who I am because if it, and I love what football has allowed me to become.

Continuing my journey with the Liverpool Ladies has been an incredible experience for me, and I continue to learn things about myself here every single day. My team-mates and I have been able to bond together so seamlessly because we each share the same passion for the game and have the same goal in being here: to win another league title! Every day for us is a new challenge, but we can continue to improve every day. The second half of the season will be even more competitive than the first, but I am excited to see where this road will take me.w

• Follow Amanda on Twitter @ADacosta13

Keepy-uppies in a Liverpool skatepark with BMX riders in support!

FOLLOW THE CHAMPIONS

Reigning WSL title holders Liverpool Ladies play at Halton Stadium in Widnes. For all the latest news just visit the official website www.liverpoolfc.com/ladies and follow the team on Twitter @LFCladies.

Forthcoming fixtures:

Sat 09 Aug
Chelsea Ladies (H) 6.30pm

Sat 23 Aug
Notts Co Ladies (H) 6.30pm

Thurs 04 Sept
Everton Ladies (A – Select Stadium) 7.30pm

Sun 21 Sept
Birmingham City Ladies (A) 2pm

Sun 05 Oct
Arsenal Ladies (A) 2pm

Sun 12 Oct
Bristol Academy Women (H) 2pm


HEMAN HEMAN E·E·C

Anfield to Flanders Field

This August marks 100 years since the First World War. To mark the centenary William Hughes look back at how the conflict affected LFC and football in the UK



Tom Bromilow (left) with his brothers in the army

Summer 1914. Although Liverpool had finished a mediocre 16th in the final First Division standings, a first appearance in the FA Cup final, despite the ultimate loss to Burnley at the Crystal Palace – had given Tom Watson's team confidence of better things to come.

However, the prospect of war cast a long shadow that would see the sport attract widespread criticism in Merseyside and beyond. The Football League, whose president was LFC chairman John McKenna, planned for the new season as normal with the popular belief in the country being that hostilities would be over by Christmas.

McKenna announced that the club's players had agreed to donate 12.5 per cent of their wages to the War Fund for the rest of the war. Manager Watson was also behind wartime football. In September 1914 he told the local press: "Our boys have been anxious that they should be trained from a military point-of-view, and they and we welcome the league's decision [to carry on playing and ensure players train for national service]. We shall soon have the league's views carried into fact."

Despite these assurances, the stance adopted by the footballing community was met disapprovingly. On the one hand, the game's authorities were accused of cowardice; on the other, questions were asked of those attending the matches. Almost three years later, a letter to the *Daily Post* in March 1917 expressed concern about the Goodison derby: 'A crowd of 25,000 people watched a game of football between the Everton and Liverpool clubs. A very considerable percentage of that assembly must have been of fighting age'.

In *Red Men*, his biography of LFC, author John Williams reported that by March 1915 just 122 of 1,800 professional players had come forward to join the military. On the flip side it was argued that the matches provided



good entertainment and relief from the realities of war. A letter published in the local press argued: 'Our two clubs are being well patronised by the football-loving public of this city and the surrounding districts, which simply goes to prove that the authorities acted wisely when they determined to continue the game during the war time.

'Deprived of [part of] their wages at one fell swoop, our footballers have engaged themselves in munition works and other government employment, and have also come forward and provided thousands of persons with a delightful entertainment each week either at Anfield or Goodison Park'.

The letter also made the point that many servicemen were among those present on matchdays: 'It is a matter of common knowledge to those who have visited our grounds at Anfield and Goodison Park this season that the number of men in khaki has been pronounced. Special entrances have been allotted to these gallant fellows; they have been admitted free, and extra privileges have been granted to these wounded heroes who having done their duty at the front have returned maimed and handicapped, and who need some little enjoyment and recreation to make them forget the horrors of war'.

In contrast however, the Rugby Football Union had suspended matches immediately to get behind the war effort.

At Liverpool's game against Manchester United on Boxing Day 1914, census cards [for draft registration] had been handed out but just over 1,000 of the 16,000 taken were returned by men.

On 23 April 1915, the FA council announced a formal suspension of football for the following season although the management committee agreed to come up with a regional format to maintain national morale. Although the programme of games was somewhat chaotic and many lasted only 80 minutes, McKenna was behind the plan: "We feel we owe a duty to the game and to those who perforce must stay at home."

The following month, May 1915, proved a difficult one for the club and the city. LFC manager Watson died suddenly of pneumonia with the club board later writing to Tom's widow to speak of the 'irreparable loss' they felt. The next day the Cunard ocean liner Lusitania was sunk on a voyage from New York to Liverpool in one of the most dreadful examples of sea warfare. Torpedoed by a German submarine near Kinsale in southern Ireland, 1,201 passengers and crew lost their lives. The sinking caused international outrage – there were riots in Liverpool and London as well as other cities around the world.

The German government claimed that Lusitania was carrying military supplies and there is some evidence to support this. But British and American enquiries later declared the sinking to have been unlawful. Either way the event devastated the tight-knit dockland communities in north Liverpool where most of Lusitania's crew lived. A total of 404 crew members died, including many local seamen. A 15-ton, four-bladed propeller, one of four that drove the Lusitania across the Atlantic, and salvaged from the wreck off the Irish coast in 1982, is now displayed on Liverpool's quayside.

TRUCE FAITH

Since 2011 the Premier League has travelled to the Belgian city of Ypres for the Christmas Truce Tournament. The annual event brings together Under-12 teams from England, Belgium, France and Germany to honour one of the most famous moments of the First World War. The Barclays Premier League is also building a floodlit 3G artificial pitch as part of the centenary commemorations. It will be used by local schools and community groups, youth teams from PL clubs, and other organisations throughout Europe – especially young people visiting the First World War battlefields. Ged Roddy, the Premier League director of youth, says it "represents a fantastic opportunity to continue the messages of peace and understanding associated with the original Christmas Truce match of 1914."

Mersey Liners Torpedoed.

NEW OUTRAGES.

LUSITANIA RUMOURS.

BERLIN NEWS TO-NIGHT.

...rrison Ships Sunk— Without Warning.

EASTERN BATTLE.

IS HILL 60 CLAIM.

...ys British Lost More ... Suffered Heavily.

CUNARD LINE.

Express Sailings from Liverpool

Lusitania, Saturday, May 15

Mauretania, Saturday, May 29



THE LIVERPOOL Football Echo. EXTRA ED

...ors: Little Hope for the Others—Official To-Night

THE SHIP NOT ARMED.

MILLIONAIRE PASSENGER.

ONE HUNDRED KILLED.

U.S.A. ANGER.

LIVERPOOL ECHO.

LIVERPOOL F.C.'S LOSS.

DEATH OF MR. TOM WATSON THIS AFTERNOON.

We regret to announce the death of Mr. Tom Watson, the popular secretary of the Liverpool Football Club, which occurred at his residence, Priory-road, Anfield, this afternoon.

Mr. Tom Watson—or "Owd Tom," as he was familiarly and affectionately known throughout the whole football world—was perhaps the most popular figure in the Association code of professional football.

A player himself, he became secretary of the Sunderland club—the district in which he was born.

Thanks to his knowledge not only of the game, but of those who played it, he raised the famous North-Eastern club rapidly into the first flight.

It was talked of in the same breath as Blackburn Rovers and Preston North End, and so far did its fame extend that it came to be called "the team of all the talents."

Leaving the Wearside seventeen years ago, Mr. Watson came to Liverpool in order to


One of the Lusitania propellers in Liverpool today

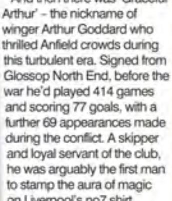
"He was a likeable fellow, somewhat eccentric and deaf"

As the war drew on, financial concerns hit home and LFC received requests for assistance from ex-players. The club's minute books show that many decisions reflecting pricing were taken alongside Everton. In February 1916 the decision was taken to insure the Anfield stands against damage from air raids.

As far as records show, 13 players registered with Liverpool FC were killed in action. One of those who perished was inside-forward John Tosswill. The following obituary appeared in the *Liverpool Echo* on 2 October 1915: 'A likeable fellow, somewhat eccentric, deaf, and a good-class footballer. That is how one might sum up Corporal JS Tosswill, whose death is announced this morning. His ear deficiency used to cause some curious happenings in football matches, for he was not able to hear the referee's signal, and of times was seen to proceed to score goals while the crowd and other players were waiting to take a free kick!'

One of the more uplifting stories from the war relates to half-back Tom Bromilow. Liverpool-born, he was approaching his 24th birthday when he was demobbed, and upon leaving the army he asked Liverpool for a trial. Then-club secretary George Patterson recalled: "His signature was obtained in the strangest manner. He came to the ground in uniform during the war and asked for a game. I asked George Fleming, who was in charge of the second team then, how he was fixed and he said he could do with another player. Bromilow played at outside-right and was an instant success. When the war ended he signed as a professional. Eventually he took his place in the first team when Bill Lacey was playing an international match for Ireland. It is one of the luckiest signings I have made."


The headstone for John Tosswill



Left-half Bromilow played 23 times during his debut season and missed only five matches over the next three seasons, which included the club's third and fourth League titles in successive seasons (1922 and 1923).

Tom was a regular member of Liverpool's defence for the rest of the decade, making his final appearance for the club at Blackburn on the last day of the 1929/30 season. Over the course of a decade-and-a-half in the red shirt, he made 375 appearances, scoring 11 goals. He was also capped five times by England.

And then there was 'Graceful Arthur' – the nickname of winger Arthur Goddard who thrilled Anfield crowds during this turbulent era. Signed from Glossop North End, before the war he'd played 414 games and scoring 77 goals, with a further 69 appearances made during the conflict. A skipper and loyal servant of the club, he was arguably the first man to stamp the aura of magic on Liverpool's no7 shirt.

LFC PLAYERS KILLED IN ACTION

George Bradley (23)
Born: 1892, Ormskirk. **Died:** 1915, France. King's Liverpool Regiment 9th Battalion. Left-half who played one Central League match.

Andrew McGuffie (28)
Born: 1887, Lanarkshire. **Died:** 1915, France. Sergeant in the Highland Light Infantry. Inside-left who played five Central League matches.

Jack Tosswill (24)
Born: 1890, Eastbourne. **Died:** 1915, Brighton. Royal Engineers dispatch rider. Inside-right who played 11 games (one goal) in 1912/13.

Tommy Gracie (26)
Born: 1889, Glasgow. **Died:** 1915, Glasgow. Royal Scots corporal. Centre-forward who played 34 games (5 goals) from 1912 to 1914.

David Murray (33)
Born: 1882, Lanarkshire. **Died:** 10/12/1915, Flanders. Served with the 11th Battalion Argyll & Sutherland Highlanders. Played 15 times at right-back between 1904 and 1905.

Joseph Barker (age unknown)
Born: date unknown, Liverpool. **Died:** 1916, France. King's Liverpool Regiment. Left-half who played one Lancashire Combination game.

Don Sloan (33)
Born: 1883, Ayr. **Died:** 1917, Arras. Black Watch Royal Highlanders Regiment. Goalkeeper who played six games in 1908/09.

Wilfred Watson (24)
Born: 1892, Wigan. **Died:** 1917, Belgium. Gunner in the Royal Garrison Artillery. Centre-forward who played 25 games (19 goals).

Arnold Dargie (26)
Born: 1891, Bangor. **Died:** 1917, France. Captain of the Battery with the Welsh Royal Garrison Artillery. Inside-left who played two Central League games in 1911/12.

Alfred Honess (31)
Born: 1886, West Derby. **Died:** 1917, France. Black Watch. A registered player in 1909/10.

William Morris (28)
Born: 1890, Nottingham. **Died:** 1918, location unknown. Seaman in the British Merchant Navy. Forward who played eight games (two goals) in the Lancashire Combination.

Joe Dines (32)
Born: 1886, Norfolk. **Died:** 1918, France. Second-lieutenant in the Liverpool Regiment. Right-half who played one game in 1912/13.

Wilf Bartrop (30)
Born: 1887, Worksop. **Died:** 1918, Belgium. Royal Field Artillery. Outside-right who played three games in the 1914/15 season.

Compiled by Eric Doig, George Rowlands, John Rowlands and Jonny Stokkeland


Red.
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Be part of your Club with the Mighty Red Junior Membership
With LFC Official Mighty Red Membership you'll get a fantastic Membership pack with a mini football, pump, cones and training cards. You could also get the chance to be a mascot and walk out onto the pitch with your LFC heroes or to attend an LFC Soccer School!
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All together now

Kopite and local musician Peter Hooton explains the story behind the song...



Liverpool fan Peter Hooton has a keen interest in the First World War. His band The Farm had their biggest hit in 1990 with *All Together Now* – a song based on the famous Christmas Day Truce of 1914.

Soldiers from both sides put down their weapons and met in no-man's land, exchanging gifts before playing football.

Peter explains: "The thing that sparked my interest in history was seeing the musical *Oh! What A Lovely War* when I was a kid. I went on to study history, particularly the First World War. When I started songwriting I wrote a song called *No-Man's Land* after the Labour leader Michael Foot was photographed in 1981 at the Cenotaph, allegedly wearing a donkey jacket. It wasn't a donkey jacket but some of his enemies in the party had leaked this to the press saying he was being disrespectful. I thought that people who'd fought in that war would've related more to Michael Foot and his politics than some of those criticising him in the tabloids. *No-Man's Land* eventually became *All Together Now.*"

As the country prepares to mark a century since war was declared, Peter admits the fact that football continued into the 1914/15 season raised a few eyebrows. "I was surprised that it wasn't immediately cancelled as happened with rugby and cricket, but football was the working-class sport. There was a wave of nationalism and people were seen as being unpatriotic – but there was also a popular belief that it would be a short war over by Christmas. The reality was that they were fighting a 19th century war with 20th century weapons.

"People were being whipped up by posters such as Kitchener's *Your Country Needs You* and there was an implied sense of: what are you doing playing football while our men are out on the front? When you look at some of the propaganda you can understand why people joined up. In a way footballers had the perfect excuse because they were entertaining people, but Liverpool saw fit to defend themselves and Tom Watson wrote a letter about it to *The Times.*"

In it the manager pointed out that 'recruiting has taken place at the football ground all season with military bands at all games' while 'eighteen footballs have also been sent to the front for supporters in the King's uniform' and 'a thousand soldiers and sailors are given free admission to each match as are wounded men and refugees'.

Peter continues: "When you look at some of the letters about the unofficial truce in 1914, which the song is about, they say things along the lines of: we met up with German soldiers and they seemed exactly the same as us…some of them were barbers and some had worked in London before the war. There are letters from both sides authenticating it. There may have been no goal-line technology but it did happen! They played football and there are too many eyewitness reports that it happened to suggest otherwise.

"Of course the top brass of both armies were horrified that it happened and made sure that it didn't again. Fraternising with the enemy became a court-martial offence. That's why *All Together Now* is very close to our hearts and we're going to be promoting it again to highlight the message of peace."



The cover to The Farm single (right) and an Illustrated London News sketch (below)





Neil MELLOR

Young players have to be so patient but always ready to take their chance



During my career at Liverpool I only missed one pre-season tour. It was in 2004. Rafa Benitez had just been appointed as manager. I'd spent the summer getting really fit. When training started, I wanted to be flying. I'd finished the previous campaign in good form. After a loan spell at West Ham I'd returned to Liverpool confident and scored a lot of goals in the reserves. With Benitez arriving I figured it was a fresh start. I was told he'd watched a lot of games to try and establish which players were coming through. I desperately wanted to be in his thoughts.

We were due to fly to America. I was in the squad. Then on the second day of training I felt a pain in my knee. It was tendonitis. It was worrying. I was concerned others might get ahead of me and I'd be back to square one at Liverpool. Although the coaching staff and Benitez tried to reassure me, that prospect would not escape my thoughts. While the others went on tour, I remained at home.

Thankfully, by November I was back in the first-team squad. I scored famous goals against Arsenal and Olympiacos in the matter of a few weeks. I would like to have played more after that but I felt like I'd made a contribution to the first team. People still talk about those goals now and that makes me happy.

The point is, a few young members of the Liverpool squad might be disappointed to not feature in this pre-season's tour to the States. They might feel a million miles away from where they want to be. Once you've had that taste of first-team football – that rush of adrenalin – you want more and more of it. If you hang in there and find a way to impress the manager in training – showing a mature attitude – you'll get there.

"To really become a first-teamer you have to influence outcomes of games"



You have to keep yourself in the manager's thoughts

My biggest concern as a player was the impact of big-money signings. Every summer there are a few at Liverpool so you have to get used to it. It's part of the greater challenge. The best ones – the ones you know are good – you desperately want to train and play with them. The problem is, when a player arrives for a huge fee and struggles the manager has to justify his purchase by persisting with him for longer than he would if he'd offered a young player an opportunity.

I had this problem with El-Hadji Diouf when Gerard Houllier was in charge. It was a source of frustration for 18 months. I found it really tough. Inwardly I felt I deserved more of an opportunity because I was doing the business for the reserves and when called upon for the first team, I'd let nobody down. With a decent run of games, I believed I'd get better.

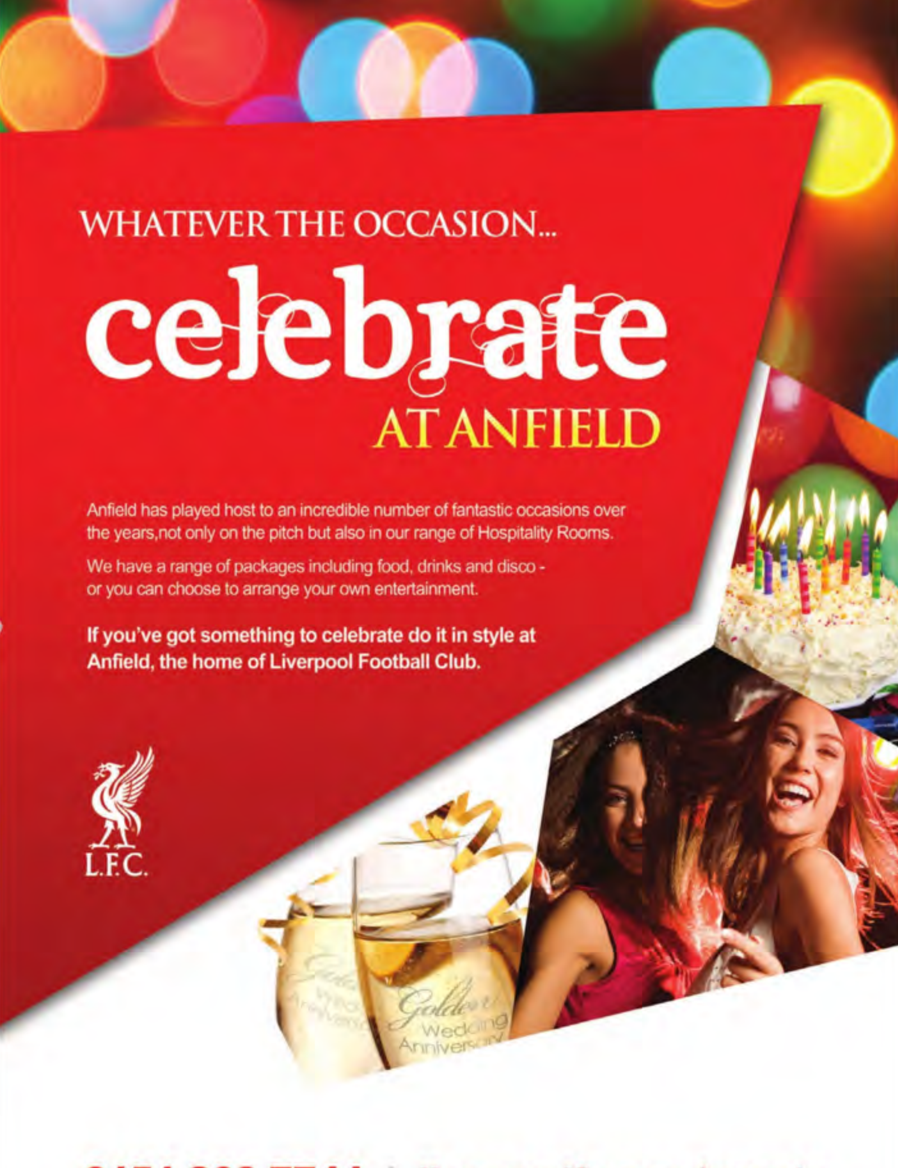
A footballer's career, though, does not follow a straight line. Like any profession in life, there are ups and downs – periods of real frustration where matters beyond your control seem unfair. It's important to get your head around this as soon as possible.

Brendan Rodgers has been excellent at giving young players their opportunity but as Liverpool's first-team results improve and the quest to remain in the Champions League gets more intense, he'll have greater flexibility in the transfer market. Ultimately there is even less room for error now as a young player.

To become an undisputed first-team member, you have to find a way to start influencing the outcome of matches more or less immediately. Ability matters, of course, but the only way this will happen is by maintaining a strong mentality and learning to overcome setbacks quickly.

Looking ahead, one of the most important pieces of advice I could give any young player this season is make sure you get to as many games at Anfield as possible. Last season we were very fortunate to witness some amazing football from a fan's point-of-view. Hopefully that pattern will continue. Merely by being there as a player, your appreciation of everything improves. You have to embrace the club and individually, the task at hand.

Follow Neil on Twitter @NeilMellor33


WHATEVER THE OCCASION...
celebrate
AT ANFIELD
Anfield has played host to an incredible number of fantastic occasions over the years,not only on the pitch but also in our range of Hospitality Rooms.
We have a range of packages including food, drinks and disco - or you can choose to arrange your own entertainment.
If you've got something to celebrate do it in style at Anfield, the home of Liverpool Football Club.
L.F.C.
Wedding
Anniversary
0151 263 7744 | liverpoolfc.com/events



76 The big draw
Make a note of the date when Liverpool's name is picked out in the UEFA Champions League draw

The bit at the back for Liverpool FC's legions of fans at home and all over the world…



82 The must-see LFC show



89 Boy racer, Reds fanatic



94 More from the LFC store



97 Jordon Ibe on Instagram

THE MONTH AHEAD AUG

Champions League draw

Liverpool FC fans will be glued to their TV sets on 28 August as club officials head to Monaco for the Reds' much-awaited return to the UEFA Champions League. The identity of Liverpool's three group-stage opponents will be revealed as the draw takes place. Matchday One will be held on 16 and 17 September.

Ten play-off winners will join the 22 automatic entrants in the group stage draw at the Grimaldi Forum, where the 32 sides are split into four seeding pots and one from each is drawn into the eight groups. Seeds are based on UEFA's coefficient system and no team can meet another from the same association.

The draw for the UEFA Youth League, which will feature the Reds' Under 19s team, will take place on the same day. The inaugural event was won by Barcelona last season.

Completing the European feel, Liverpool Ladies will also figure in a Champions League draw following their FA WSL success last season – they will find out who they will play in Monaco on 22 August.





BIRTHDAY REDS

Pepe Reina 32 on 31 August
Ray Clemence 30 on 23 August
Glen Johnson 30 on 23 August
Gerry Byrne 76 on 29 August
Alan Kennedy 60 on 31 August
Julian Dicks 46 on 8 August
Mark Wright 51 on 1 August
John Wark 57 on 4 August
Michael Thomas 47 on 24 August
Steve McMahon 53 on 20 August
Didi Hamann 41 on 27 August
Djibril Cisse 33 on 12 August
David Hodgson 54 on 6 August
Corina Schroder 28 on 15 August
Martha Harris 20 on 19 August



Anniversaries

37 years since Kenny Dalglish joined LFC from Celtic on 10 August
48 years since Roger Hunt's goal won the Charity Shield against Everton on 13 August
43 years since Kevin Keegan scored on LFC debut on 14 August
26 years since Ian Rush joined LFC from Chester on 18 August
10 years since Xabi Alonso and Luis Garcia joined LFC on 20 August
53 years since Ian St John scored his first LFC goals in a 4-1 win at Sunderland on 30 August

Dortmund date

Brendan Rodgers' men conclude their preparations for the new campaign by hosting Borussia Dortmund in their final friendly at Anfield on Sunday 10 August (12.15pm). The Yellow-Blacks finished as runners-up in the Bundesliga last season under the guidance of charismatic manager Jurgen Klopp. Dortmund's squad is set to include World Cup winners Mats Hummels, Kevin Grosskreutz, Erik Durm and Roman Weidenfeller.

Klopp's summer signings so far include striker Ciro Immobile, who finished as last season's top scorer in Serie A with 22 goals for Torino.

The only previous meeting of the sides at Anfield was a Champions League game in October 2001. Steven Gerrard is pictured right, making a challenge during the fixture which the Reds won 2-0 thanks to goals from Vladimir Smicer and Stephen Wright.



DON'T MISS

Here we go!

Rickie Lambert could make his Premier League debut for the Reds against former club Southampton when the domestic campaign kicks off at Anfield on Sunday 17 August. Last season the Saints inflicted one of two LFC home defeats thanks to a second-half goal from another new Red, Dejan Lovren. Southampton have seen several changes during the summer with manager Mauricio Pochettino leaving to take charge of Spurs. Dutchman Ronald Koeman is the new man at the St Mary's helm; ex-Red Sammy Lee is part of his coaching staff. Signings include ex-Feyenoord forward Graziano Pelle.

FARA'S FIRST

Liverpool Ladies midfielder Fara Williams is set to become England Ladies' record caps holder if she plays in a friendly against Sweden at Hartlepool's Victoria Park on Sunday 3 August. Fara currently shares the record with Arsenal's Rachel Yankey on 129.

Meanwhile, Liverpool Ladies continue their WSL campaign in August with a couple of home fixtures at the Select Security Stadium in Widnes. Matt Beard's side take on fellow title hopefuls Chelsea Ladies on Saturday 9 August before entertaining Notts County on 23 August. Both games kick off at 6.30pm.



Clearer Thoughts kicks off partnership with the North West Air Ambulance Charity





Training provider, Clearer Thoughts, stays close to its local community and this year is giving the North West Air Ambulance Charity a boost by helping to fund a programme to build its employees skills.

Clearer Thoughts offers a broad range of training programmes and can help you to achieve organisational excellence. To get the best out of your biggest asset, your staff, get in touch with the team.

Since 1999, the North West Air Ambulance Charity has been providing a vital service to patients across the North West 365 days a year. The charity would not be here without the support of its community of fundraisers and partners. One day you may need the North West Air Ambulance Charity, so be there for it today - donate now.





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North West Air Ambulance Charity

North West Air Ambulance Charity
North Mersey Business Centre
Woodward Road
Knowsley
L33 7UY

0800 587 4570

enquiries@nwaa.net


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L.F.C.
24
WARRIOR



Kick off the season with LFCTV

At last – the football is back! This month sees the long-awaited return of the Barclays Premier League which starts at 12.30pm on Sunday 17 August with Matchday Live from Anfield for Liverpool's season-opener against Southampton. The post-match Phone-In kicks off at 3.30pm.

The LFCTV team will also be at the Etihad Stadium and White Hart Lane for our visits to Manchester City on Monday 25 August and Tottenham Hotspur on Sunday 31 August respectively. Our daily news service will be expanded, with more coverage coming direct from the training complex at Melwood, and there will be the return of several season-long favourites. #LFCWORLD is back for a second series. The weekly magazine show covers all aspects of life at Anfield, from first-team to fans, and will be first aired on Wednesdays.

The Thursday Night Live Show offers a fun and irreverent look at the club. Current and former Reds players, plus celebrity fans, grace the sofa to give their take on all things Liverpool. And every show features an exclusive performance from local musicians.

Steve Hothersall returns with a new weekly series of Press Box, as he and three journalists discuss Liverpool's season and all the major stories surrounding the club.

Anfield 360˚ is also back. The show, which will be aired on Fridays, looks back at the week that was for the Reds, as well as previewing the weekend's action. And find out who the club will be facing in the UEFA Champions League with our group-stage draw special on Thursday 28 August.

LFCTV is on Sky channel 429 or Virgin channel 544. For full listings visit www.liverpoolfc.com.





FIXTURE LIST 2014/2015

AUGUST
17 **Southampton** (H, 1.30pm)
25 **Manchester City** (A, 8pm)
31 **Tottenham Hotspur** (A, 1.30pm)

SEPTEMBER
13 **Aston Villa** (H, 5.30pm)
16/17 **Champions League** matchday 1
20 **West Ham United** (A, 5.30pm)
24 **Capital One Cup** third round
27 **Everton** (H, 12.45pm)
30/1 **Champions League** matchday 2

OCTOBER
4 **West Bromwich Albion** (H, 3pm)
19 **Queens Park Rangers** (A, 1.30pm)
21/22 **Champions League** matchday 3
25 **Hull City** (H, 3pm)
29 **Capital One Cup** fourth round

NOVEMBER
1 **Newcastle United** (A, 12.45pm)
4/5 **Champions League** matchday 4
8 **Chelsea** (H, 12.45pm)
23 **Crystal Palace** (A, 1.30pm)
25/26 **Champions League** matchday 5
29 **Stoke City** (H)

DECEMBER
2 **Leicester City** (A, 8pm)
6 **Sunderland** (H)
9/10 **Champions League** matchday 6
13 **Manchester United** (A)
17 **Capital One Cup** fifth round
20 **Arsenal** (H)
26 **Burnley** (A)
28 **Swansea City** (H)

JANUARY
1 **Leicester City** (H)
3 **FA Cup** third round
10 **Sunderland** (A)
17 **Aston Villa** (A)
21 **Capital One Cup** semi-final first leg
24 **FA Cup** fourth round
28 **Capital One Cup** semi-final second leg
31 **West Ham United** (H)

FEBRUARY
7 **Everton** (A)
10 **Tottenham Hotspur** (H)
14 **FA Cup fifth round**
17/18 **Champions League** round of 16 (1)
21 **Southampton** (A)
24/25 **Champions League** round of 16 (2)
28 **Manchester City** (H)

MARCH
1 **Capital One Cup** final
3 **Burnley** (H)
7 **FA Cup** quarter-finals
14 **Swansea City** (A)
21 **Manchester United** (H)

APRIL
4 **Arsenal** (A)
11 **Newcastle United** (H)
4/15 **Champions League** quarter-finals (1)
18 **Hull City** (A) / **FA Cup** semi-finals
21/22 **Champions League** quarter-finals (2)
25 **West Bromwich Albion** (A)

MAY
2 **Queens Park Rangers** (H)
5/6 **Champions Lge** semi-finals (1)
9 **Chelsea** (A)
12/13 **Champions Lge** semi-finals (2)
16 **Crystal Palace** (H)
24 **Stoke City** (A)
30 **FA Cup** final

JUNE
6 **Champions Leage** final

All kick-off times are BST. All Barclays Premier League fixtures are subject to change for the requirements of television and/or for other reasons such as police requests.
 Please check **www.liverpoolfc.com** for the latest details as and when they happen

"Following LFC home and away for 30-odd years has created a lot of material"

What's it like to write the club's complete story for page, stage and screen? Nicky Allt reveals all to John Hynes

Your Official History of Liverpool FC show returns to the stage this month - why are you moving it to the Echo Arena?

We had a great run with it earlier in the year at the Royal Court [in Liverpool]. It got some very pleasing reviews and a lot of people came to see it. But there were still others who said they'd missed it or hadn't been able to go. With that in mind I wanted to take it to a larger arena. Now we're doing it by moving to the EchoTwo Arena. That part of the arena holds about 3,000 people. The challenge with transferring our show is retaining the intimacy. At the Royal Court the atmosphere was great – at times the noise from the crowd almost felt like being at a football match. We want to replicate that with this new run. I think we've achieved it and hopefully the audiences will agree. It's an exciting prospect for me and everyone connected with the show.





Nicky and Shanks in the Museum of Liverpool's football section

The show is also going to Belfast...

Yeah we're doing a few nights over there in September. Again I've always wanted to take my shows there because, as everyone knows, there are thousands of LFC supporters. In the past they've told me that they would like to have seen one of our shows, so this time we're making it happen by going to the Odyssey Arena. I think it's appropriate because Elisha Scott, one of the most memorable players to have featured for us, was from Belfast. There's also Brendan Rodgers' link with Northern Ireland. I've been over there a few times myself and it's a great city with a great history. There is a good feel about the place right now and it will be a great trip.

You've written books, plays and movie scripts. How do the formats differ?

Obviously they are similar in some ways but each brings different challenges. A play is much shorter than a book and flows in a different way. A book requires more work solely in terms of words. Some people will think about writing a book but then be intimidated by the idea of getting 70, 80 or 90,000 words down on paper. If I'm left alone with some peace and quiet I don't usually struggle to write any of them. It's when you start to do too many of each at the same time that it can become confusing. I can work on a book and a play together. But working on a play and a movie is very tough because they are both scripts. Maybe that's just me though. Everyone has their own way of doing the job.

"A lot of it comes from all the trips I went on to support the Reds"

Where do you get your story ideas?

A lot of it comes from being a football fan and all the trips I went on to support the Reds. I used to go home and away for 30-odd years. So that's created a lot of material, thousands of stories. Even incidents or nights out on those trips that had nothing to do with the actual football match are useful.

The Hangover movie is a good example of what I'm talking about. It's a group of lads in a new and unusual place going through a variety of experiences. Football trips are like that. For example, you could have four Scouse lads in the middle of Russia, or five Irish lads in Scandinavia. Something is going to happen and it's bound to be entertaining. I try to incorporate those stories into my work.

And does the same apply when it comes to your characters?

With football you go to pubs, cities, or on buses, trains and planes and you meet loads of people that you might never have encountered otherwise. People from different places with different jobs. I'll take bits of those when I'm writing a character. You can't make it too obvious who they are, but you do base characters on people you've encountered or various traits from a certain person.

A lot of your work has been based around football...

I don't mind being pigeonholed when it comes to that. It used to bother me but not anymore. I could write about football forever but I like to do other type of stories and that's my plan for the future. I'm not ruling out writing about football ever again, but I'm working on some non-football based projects right now.

The Official Story of Liverpool Football Club runs at EchoTwo Arena from 28 to 30 August 2014. Later it moves to Belfast's Odyssey Arena from 18 to 20 September.



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KOP CAR

Meet possibly the fastest LFC fan on four wheels – a young star of the Ginetta GT4 Supercup

Speed, precision, style, adrenaline. Not a well-worked counterattacking Liverpool goal, but life behind the wheel as a racing driver. Sean Huyton is one of British motorsport's most promising talents – and he's also a massive Red.

Beginning his motor-racing life in karting, Liverpool fan Sean has successfully risen through the ranks and now races in the Ginetta GT4 Supercup as part of the Academy Motorsport team – just one level below the pinnacle of British motorsport, the British Touring Car Championship.

"Being a racing driver is not always as glamorous as people make it out to be," says the Ormskirk lad. "At the level I'm racing at, sponsorship and money plays a big part on how a driver performs. A lot of the guys I'm racing against have the backing of family money or large sponsors, which I currently don't. So me and my team do what we can with the resources available to us, and so far we've had some success and podium finishes. I'm not complaining though. I absolutely love what I do. I wouldn't want to be doing anything else – except maybe pulling on the red shirt of Liverpool week in week out."

"It's the only thing I want to do – except maybe play for Liverpool!"

Racing at weekends means it's difficult for Sean to watch LFC play all the time. "I don't get to see half as many of the games I'd like to, but I catch as many as possible. Last season was an incredible journey and hopefully Brendan and the players can push on from that and go one step further this time round. With Champions League football returning hopefully I'll be able to get to some of those games. You can't beat the atmosphere of a Champions League fixture at Anfield."

Sean was only a few months old when Liverpool last won the title so last year's oh-so-nearly season has left a bittersweet taste. "Although we have 18 titles, for people my age [24] and younger, we've never seen Liverpool lift it. So last year almost felt like it was going to be the first time in a way. To get so close was agonising but very, very promising for the future."

You can follow Sean's progress in the Ginetta GT4 Supercup live on ITV4 as part of the channel's coverage of the British Touring Car Championship, and also at www.seanhuyton.co.uk.



Words: Alexander Rowe

LFC legends and current players with pupils at Dexter Southfield School

Boston with love

It's been a busy and hugely fulfilling programme for Liverpool FC Foundation on the pre-season tour of the US. The club's official charity was joined by legends and club ambassadors Ian Rush and Robbie Fowler on a visit to a summer camp in Boston, where they helped Foundation coaches deliver a series of sessions to 400 local children at Camp Harbor View. Club mascot Mighty Red joined in the fun alongside Foundation trustee Linda Pizzuti Henry.

It was a return visit for the Foundation, which in 2012 originally visited this facility for children living in Boston's at-risk neighbourhoods. The coaching sessions are part of the Foundation's International Programme providing unique opportunities to a diverse range of individuals and groups with support from global partners.

Robbie, Rushie and Mighty Red also appeared at another of the Foundation's return visits, this time to the Perkins School for the Blind where they helped to deliver a series of tailored football clinics to develop skills and teach students to play 'The Liverpool Way'. The school is the oldest of its kind in the United States, and more than 100 students took part in the sessions.

The Foundation also returned to Boston Children's Hospital where it delivered LFC-themed gifts including mini-footballs, posters and shirts.


Rushie and Robbie with one of the children at Perkins School for the Blind



Working with children and adults to help inspire positive change through sport – follow us on Twitter **@LFCFoundation** to keep up to date with the community team's projects and activities

Reds go Dutch

As part of the Liverpool FC Academy's pre-season preparations, the U17, U19 and U21 squads have been on tour in the Netherlands taking part in training and prestigious friendlies – against Club Brugge and Schalke – as well as cultural and community visits.

Based near the town of Nijmegen, the young players visited the Overloon War Museum and laid wreaths in honour of three soldiers from Merseyside: Lance Bombardier Henry James Loftus, Private Philip John Christian and Private Sydney John Gilbert Williamson. There was also a visit to Radboud Hospital, one of the largest in the Netherlands, and a link-up with the Johan Cruyff Foundation which was set up by the Dutch legend to give more opportunities to kids across the world to be active in sport.

LFC's Academy has been able to part-fund the two-week Holland tour via the European Commission's Leonardo Mobility Programme, the aim being to facilitate the transfer of training methods and philosophies between Liverpool FC and host partner club FC Twente. Navitas Sports, a UK-based sports consultancy, helped the Reds secure the European funding and have been integral to the success of the trip.



LFC Academy players at the Johan Cruyff Foundation

Helping hands at the Radboud Hospital

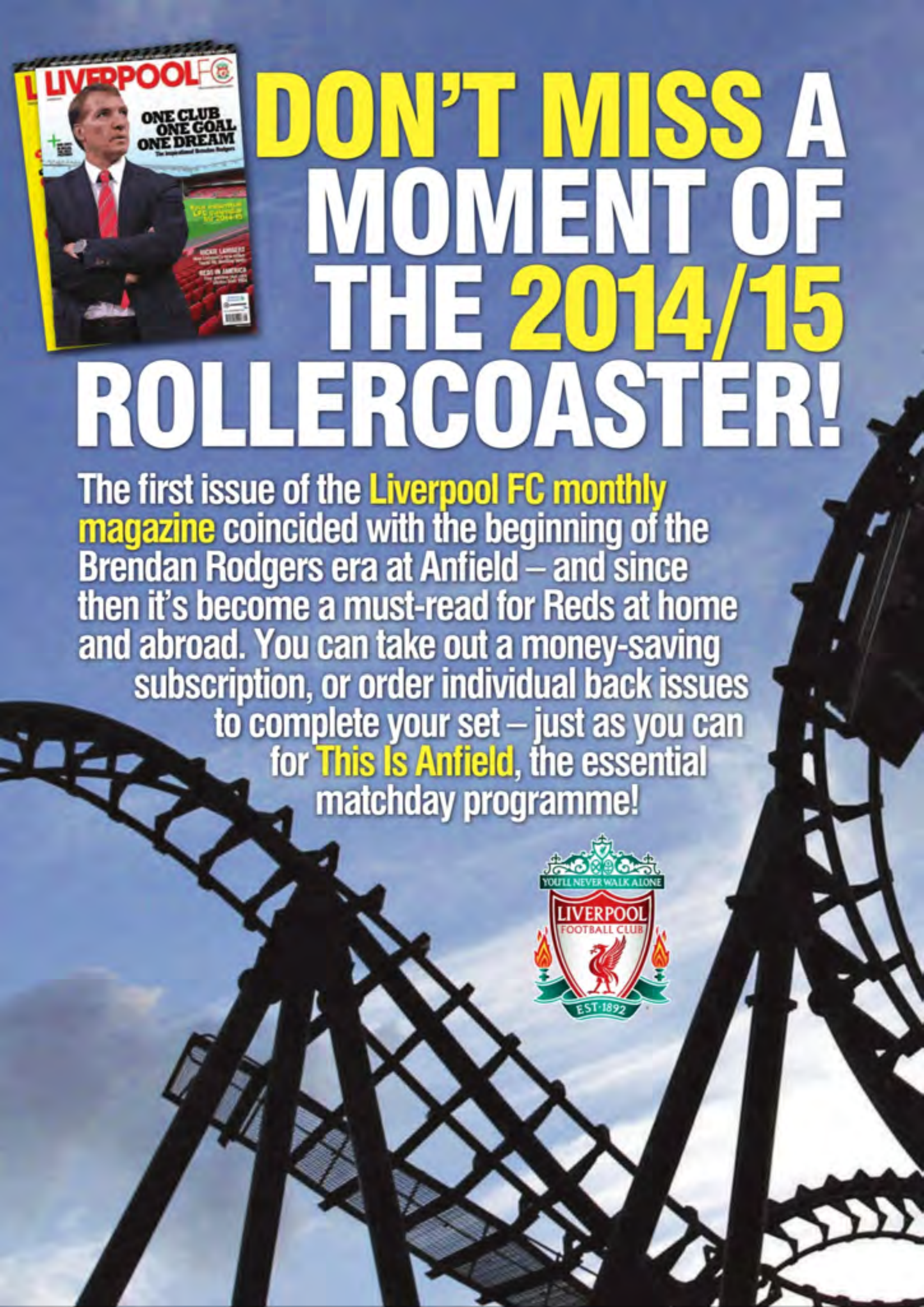
"Ian Rush and Robbie Fowler helped to deliver coaching clinics"

Founded in 1869, the hospital is one of the largest paediatric medical centres in the United States. LFC Boston Supporters' Club recently raised nearly $2,500 for the hospital through a sponsored walk.

And there was a special event at the city's Dexter Southfield School where Kenny Dalglish and Robbie Fowler were joined by first-teamers Jose Enrique, Glen Johnson and Martin Kelly, as Foundation coaches shared their knowledge with kids from ongoing programmes at the Red Sox Foundation – all part of the two charitable organisations maintaining strong links.



Linda Pizzuti Henry, Forbes Duff from the Foundation and Mighty Red at Boston Children's Hospital


DON'T MISS A MOMENT OF THE 2014/15 ROLLERCOASTER!
The first issue of the Liverpool FC monthly magazine coincided with the beginning of the Brendan Rodgers era at Anfield – and since then it's become a must-read for Reds at home and abroad. You can take out a money-saving subscription, or order individual back issues to complete your set – just as you can for This Is Anfield, the essential matchday programme!
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Jordon Ibe Instagram



22 July
Rickie Lambert and I, in training this morning



17 July
#LFC



15 July
Off to Copenhagen tomorrow, first game of pre-season #LFC



11 July
Enjoying training #LFC



9 July
Chilling with @lloydjones51 Go follow his new IG



7 July
Me and Emre Can #LFC



20 June
Can't wait till I'm back at footy #LFC



25 May
had to show love and buss the Studge on 'em… @dstudge



19 May
Night night Instagram #LFC all day Err'day...



4 May
What a wonderful feeling…



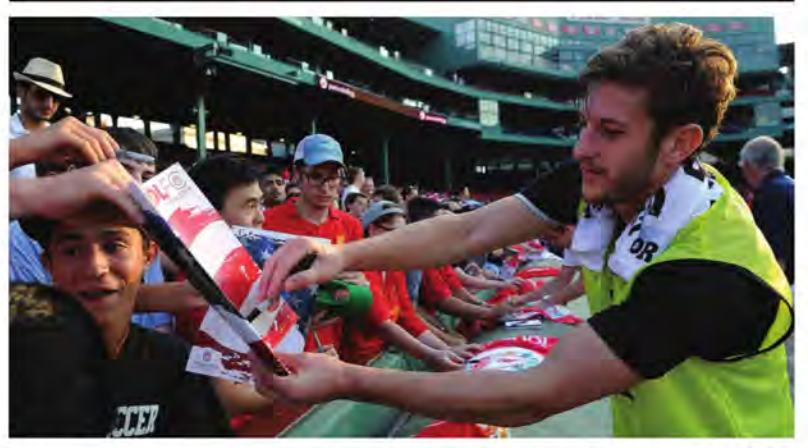
31 March
Enjoyed #Xfactor tour, great meeting @tameraofficial and @ roughcopyofficial @hbarrettofficial



23 January
#LFC #Chilling #Footy

David PRICE

It'll be worth the wait to see Adam Lallana in action



Adam Lallana signing for LFC fans in Boston

A new season is almost upon us and I am really excited about seeing Liverpool back in action.

The way that 2013/14 ended was clearly disappointing but I believe the players will be better for having had that experience and we also have several new faces to freshen things up.

The big talking point of the summer has been the departure of Luis Suarez. I know the club did all they could to keep him but in all honesty I think it was out of our hands. I've got no gripes because he's given us two great seasons and some of the best football that I've seen in a long time. It is understandable at this stage of his career that someone of his calibre would want the opportunity to play with Messi, Neymar, Xavi and Iniesta and you can't begrudge him that. I look back at his time in a red shirt and think: thanks for the great memories.

The club has to move on now and trust Brendan Rodgers because he's done a great job since he arrived. I said last season that I felt the team was fine but the squad lacked depth. Now Liverpool have to prove that the opposite isn't the case following Suarez's departure.

There were times last year when I watched Liverpool play without Suarez in the side and the team had a little more balance. I'm not for one minute suggesting we'll be better without him, but the team has shown they can make it work without him – don't forget they started last season with three straight wins in his absence.

It will be interesting to see how Brendan goes about replacing Suarez. I don't think he likes having a single striker upfront on his own. It doesn't sit well with his philosophy of attacking football and in some ways it's like pushing water uphill for the player in the lone role. Therefore I believe we need to replace Suarez with a top player who is proven at the top level to play alongside Daniel Sturridge.

Rickie Lambert and Lazar Markovic will increase the attacking options and I've also been pleased by the signing of Adam Lallana. I was talking about him with my dad. He knows his stuff and is convinced Lallana's going to be our player of the season – he thinks he's that good. Lallana didn't get much of a chance to show what he can do at the World Cup but you could see from his performances at Southampton that he's got talent. I think he'll suit our style of play and he jumped at the chance to sign for us. He's hungry and hopefully, once he's recovered from his injury, he can slot in well in an attacking role that suits Brendan's brand of football.

"I'm excited that the only way to improve on last year is to win the league"

The goal last season was getting back into the Champions League. That was achieved and I'm really looking forward to having those European nights back at Anfield. This season I think the aim has to be ending it as champions. The only way we can improve on last year is to win the league and I'm excited at the prospect of what this season may bring.

Follow David on Twitter @DavidPrice_1


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78
81
84
05
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